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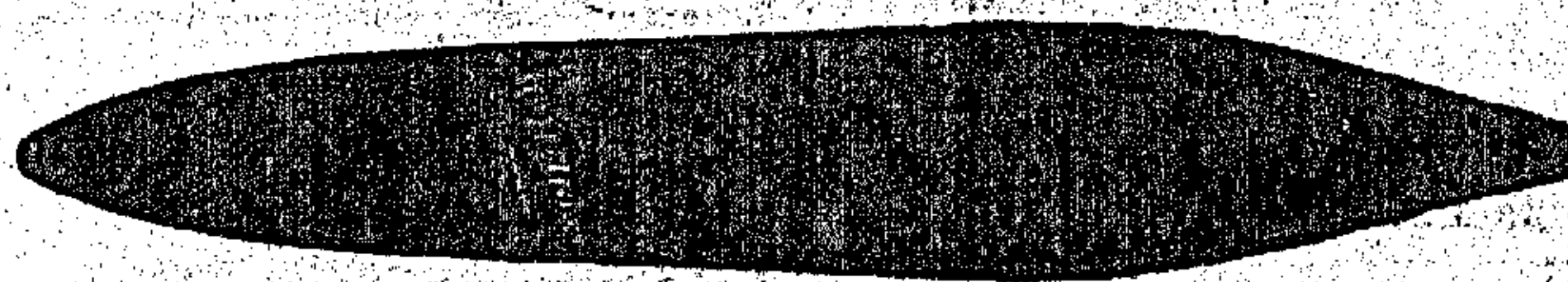
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## GRAND HOTEL, GRAND ANNEX, GRAND STRAND.

SEASON  
1918TSINGTAU  
"IDEAL SEA-BATHING"Commencing  
MAY 15th.

T. NAGAO, General Manager.

## A FREE SATURDAY FOR WORKERS.

SIR JESSE BOOT'S IDEAL FACTORY.

LABOUR AND CAPITAL MUST JOIN HANDS.

[BY HAROLD BEGGIE.]

As to our British Bolsheviks and as to our economic condition after the war, Sir Jesse Boot, an old warrior of industry, is not unduly anxious. He is old enough to remember the Chartists; he is wise enough to trust British common sense.

Our conditions, he said to me, resting on his invalid's couch, "are infinitely better than they were when I was a boy. There is no comparison between them. The transformation which has taken place is complete. Further improvements will be made. There is room for improvement. But it must be the improvement of natural growth. These violent Socialists, who are very violent just now, are not practical men. And they have the making of tyrants. Extremists are always tyrannous. England does not trust such people. I believe in free discussion; I believe in the publication of grievances; I believe in the spirit of progress. But what England has got to do is to digest and assimilate progress as it goes along. If she does that, I am full of hope as regards the future. There'll be bad times. There's bound to be. It will come after the artificial conditions which now exist are removed, and before normal conditions are thoroughly established. During that interregnum, so far as I can judge, we shall be in the trough of the wave. But if we stick together, if we do use earnest sympathy, if we look to the future as practical men carrying serious responsibilities, then, in my judgment, we shall mount with the wave and go forward to great prosperity."

I spoke of the rather violent views of certain extreme Socialists, our Bolsheviks, and he smiled as he lay there, like some old Waterloo veteran hearing stories of a fight in Ireland.

A CHARTIST INCIDENT.  
There was a time during the Chartist disturbances when a "work" place across the very street in which our new works are built, and warning was given that anyone attempting to come down the street would have boiling tar thrown upon him. I can remember that every time bread rose in price the poor unfortunate bakers' windows were broken. Things like that were common in my boyhood. Oh, we're much more reasonable now. Violent people are a nuisance, and may be dangerous, but they seldom dominate English life. Keenly recognise what remains to be done in the way of solid progress, I'm certain that our conditions neither justify violence nor could be bettered by violence. What we want in England is gentle rains and not thunder-storms. Our people believe in growth. They've no taste for hand-axes and cut-throats.

I asked him what he thought of Lord Leverhulme's proposal of a six-hour day.  
"Lord Leverhulme," he replied, "is a very remarkable man, and I recognise his enormous ability and his sincere earnestness as a social reformer. But I think in this proposal he is carried away by the conditions in his own business, and does not make sufficient allowance for the conditions which obtain in others. It is a noble idea, but as I see it, impracticable just now. Four shifts of six hours would make the product more expensive than three shifts of eight hours. We must lead up to the six-hour day, but we must not expect it just now."

TWO DAYS OF PEACE.  
"What I should like to work for is a free Saturday for the manufacturing operatives. I would suggest eight or nine hours a day for five days in the week with Saturday free. I should like to encourage our people to regard Saturday as a day for enjoyment and relaxation, and sports, and frolic of every rational kind. It ought to be a day of absolute enjoyment leading up to a peaceful Sunday. I believe strongly in the value of one day in the week consecrated to peace, a real holy-day. I should like Sunday to be regarded by the nation as a day sacred to family reunions, to meditation, to readings, to contemplation of nature, and to the public worship of God. A free Saturday would prepare the way for a spiritual Sunday. In my opinion much of the industrial irritation and unrest is due to the tremendous tension of modern life. Man's soul must have one holy day a week. Such a day is necessary to the health of the whole man, body and spirit."

He is speaking of the manufacturing classes and of work in the modern factory where, owing to the division of labour, a man's time is devoted not to the making of the whole article but only to his own small part. Amongst the distributing retail classes there is much more varied work to be done, and a free Saturday would be impossible because they are engaged in supplying the wants of the working classes.

He is profoundly convinced that the late Earl Grey was inspired on his deathbed when he pleaded with the nation for a deeper and more earnest sympathy. Indeed, he declares it as his faith that unbounded prosperity is waiting for us if only we will throw away our prejudices, our class hatreds, our jealousies, and our petty suspicions.

In his own huge factories at Nottingham, which have been greatly enlarged during the war in order to manufacture the fine chemicals hitherto supplied by Germany, he is trying as far as possible under the difficult existing conditions to make the life of the workpeople healthy and happy. He believes that the conditions of work are more important than the hours, and that the great thing is to mitigate monotony. He wants factories to have play clubs, and bands, dancing and drills, debating societies and recreation rooms. He wants managers to be in constant and human contact with workpeople. He wants workpeople to be sensible of the effort of the management to improve their conditions. And he wants both managers and workpeople to associate themselves in a hearty and intelligent co-operation with capital to make the industries of England a part, and a very vital part, of her national glory.

HONGKONG MAGISTRACY.  
AN OPIUM CASE.

A Chinese was charged with being in unlawful possession of twenty taels of opium.

A Chinese Revenue Officer stated that he went on board the s.s. *Wan Lee*, trading between Singapore and Hongkong, and searched the quarters of the crew. In defendant's bunk he discovered a loose parcel containing the opium.

R. O. Clarke said defendant admitted the opium belonged to him.

Mr. J. R. Wood discharged defendant.

## A COAL CASE.

Six Chinese—four men and two women—all belonging to the same junk, were charged with being in unlawful possession of five tons of coal, valued at \$150.

Mr. W. E. L. Shenton appeared for the defendants.

Inspector Gordon stated that he received information that a coal junk had gone to Shaikwan to sell coal, which had been stolen at Yumati, and a police launch was sent in pursuit. Being aware of this, the crew of the junk set sail for Kowloon City and discharged the coal on the shore. They were then arrested.

Mr. Shenton applied for a remand, and this was granted by Mr. Dyer Ball.

## RICKSHA COOLIE ASSAULTED.

An Indian was charged with assaulting a ricksha coolie.

It was stated that defendant, who was under the influence of liquor, engaged the ricksha to drive round the city, and at the end refused to pay the fare.

Mr. Dyer Ball fined defendant \$1, and ordered him to pay 40 cents to the coolie.

## FAILING TO OBSERVE THE RULE OF THE ROAD.

A ricksha coolie was charged with failing to observe the rule of the road whilst pulling his ricksha along Chatham Street, Kowloon, on the evening of the 10th inst.

It was stated that defendant's ricksha was behind three others which were going in the direction of Kowloon Docks. In an attempt to outstrip the other rickshas, defendant started pulling his ricksha to the wrong side of the road, with the result that he collided with and overturned a ricksha in which Mrs. Smalley was riding.

Defendant pleaded guilty, stating that he only obeyed instructions. The collision was purely an accident.

Mr. J. R. Wood fined defendant \$5.

## WANTED TOO MUCH FOR TEN CENTS.

Seven Chinese were charged with behaving in a disorderly manner at the Kai Lu Theatre on Thursday night.

Only two out of the seven men appeared.

Sergeant Cockle stated that a number of men who were passing from the North to South went to the theatre and bought ten-cent tickets. They were, however, not satisfied with the seating accommodation provided, and later on about forty men rushed to the eighty cents seats. On being asked to vacate the seats they refused, and they became quarrelsome. Witness had to draw his revolver and threaten them before they would return to their original seats. Sergeant Cockle added that the men were leaving to-day.

Mr. Dyer Ball administered a severe warning to the defendants and discharged them.

## LORD JELICOE'S WARNING.

A correspondent writes to the *Daily Telegraph*:—"No doubt it was Admiral Lord Jellicoe's modesty which restrained him from revealing a further warning which was ignored. He told his hearers that as long ago as 1911, Lord Fisher prophesied in a memorandum to the Board of Admiralty, that the Germans would use submarines against our merchant ships. His words had no effect. Lord Jellicoe might have gone on to state that about two and a half years ago, when he was Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Fleet, he realised the danger ahead and urged the Government of the day, in a series of memoranda, first to fill up the shipyards with material and workers, so as to build as many merchant vessels as possible; and secondly, to introduce a scheme of rationing. These two warnings have been the gossip in naval circles for a long time, and there is every reason why the nation should know that its seamen exercised foresight and statesmanship, but were overborne, with results which are now familiar to everyone. It was the irony of fate that the First Sea Lord, Lord Jellicoe should have had to suffer from the blindness of others, the combatants of the submarine (with increasing success) becoming his pre-occupation at the Admiralty."

## CANTON NEWS.

[BY CORRESPONDENT OF THE "HONG KONG DAILY PRESS."]

April 12th.

## KWANGTUNG TO BE ATTACKED.

It is reported that the Peking Government has decided to dispatch strong forces to attack Kwangtung. We learn that the Tughur of Fukien has been ordered to send troops to attack the province from the direction of Swatow, and the Tughur of Shantung has been ordered to attack from the direction of Kiangsi. It is also said that the advanced guards of the Northern troops, are assembling in the Tai Yu mountains, as if to attack Kwangtung. The Yuet-Hon Railway Company has been instructed not to leave any locomotives in Shikwan Station, or they may be seized by Northern troops.

## SITUATION AT KOCHOW.

A message from Sanchong states that Chief Commander Li Kan-yuen, has instructed the Canton leaders to attack simultaneously various districts adjacent to Kochow in order to divide the fighting strength of Lung's troops. These attacks began on the 11th inst., and fighting is proceeding.

## LUNG'S MILITARY MEASURES.

Lung's Chief Commander, Li Kan-pai, in view of the importance of the Shun-ye district, has sent several regiments and machine-gun Corps to protect it. Li has also ordered trenches and other defensive works to be constructed on the outskirts of the city, as the Canton troops are taking Shun-ye for their objective.

## THE PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY.

At a meeting, yesterday, of the Provincial Assembly, the question of the reopening of the Pak Koi Piu lottery was discussed. It was decided to request the authorities to strictly prohibit that lottery.

The meeting was attended by over 400 students of the Civil Law College, who desired to learn about the conduct of meetings and debates.

## GENERAL LUK'S MOVEMENTS.

General Luk Wing-ting arrived in Nanning yesterday. He has ordered the new army, which was formed in Yanchow, to proceed to the Limkong front, after obtaining supplies.

CANTON, April 14th.

## REFORM OF THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT.

A meeting was held at the Generalissimo's office, yesterday, to discuss the reformation of the Military Government, and the cancellation of the office of Generalissimo. It was attended by all the M.P.s and various leaders. The suggested changes were strongly resisted by Dr. Sun's supporters, and the meeting ended in a quarrel. We learn that M.P.s, and other leaders, who approve the changes, which were submitted by the Tughur and General Luk's instructions, are pressing the matter forward and trying to get all the M.P.s to approve of it.

## DR. SUN'S MEASURES.

Owing to the present situation of the South-West, Dr. Sun ordered his supporters to recruit a new army to reinforce the expeditionary forces in Hupeh Province, and a part of this army arrived in Canton the other day.

Dr. Sun, learning that certain officers who were sent to recruit by Commander Li Lich-kwan, were shot by the Tughur's son at Shun Tak, has requested the Tughur to have his son punished.

## THE SALT REVENUE.

We are informed that the Consular Body in Canton, which has several times objected to the Military Government appropriating the Salt Revenue on the ground that it is the security for certain foreign loans, has again requested the Diplomatic Corps in Peking to protest to the Central Government.

## NORTHERN EXPEDITION TO KWANGTUNG.

We are informed that the Peking Government has decided to send two divisions of Northern troops from the direction of Kiangsi, and one division from the direction of Fukien, to attack Kwangtung. We also learn that reinforcements and military supplies have been sent to General Lung Chai-kwong from Shanghai.

## THE KO CHOW FRONT.

It is reported that Canton troops have begun their attacks on various districts near Ko Chow. Canton troops captured the Tin Pak district city, yesterday, after severe fighting.

## "POETS IN CAMP."

ANOTHER BOOK OF VERSE BY MR. E. W. HAMILTON.

Mr. E. W. Hamilton, who is already regarded by his friends as a budding Calverley, has just published a second book of verse. He says that since the publication of "Gas Attacks" he has been asked by so many of his friends never to publish again that he has much pleasure in thrusting this fresh collection on a defenceless public. In the first case Mr. Hamilton stated unblushingly that he was out for money. He either reaped a harvest of dollars large enough to satisfy all his needs or has come to the conclusion that the game is not worth the candle as a financial speculation for this time all the profits are to go to War Charities. The real price of the brochure, which is exceedingly well produced and has a cover specially designed by Mr. W. H. Bird, is \$2.50, but every purchaser upon giving a guarantee that he will read the contents, will have fifty cents returned at the bookstore so that his outlay, if he has no objection to a little prevarication, need only be \$2 net.

A number of the verses have already appeared in the *Daily Press* and other local publications, but many are new and all are written in a delightfully happy vein. Mr. Hamilton's skill in the art of versification is so well-known and highly appreciated in the Colony that it needs no word of ours to commend it, and therefore we refrain from giving extracts. We need only mention "The Poets in Camp," "A Song of Camp," "The Ballad of Pan Ah Chan," "The House that Jack Built" (a little skit at the expense of "a very hard-worked department"), "May" (which should be read in conjunction with "D.S.O."), "For, oh, it is not always May," "Palinodia," "Nursery Rhymes of Hongkong," and on a serious vein, showing the versatility of the author—

"St. George," which was published on England's Patron Saint's Day last year. According to statistics furnished by the author, one out of every 27,000 of the population bought a copy of the previous booklet and can therefore be depended upon to avail themselves of the present offer. We have no hesitation in advising the remainder to atone for their neglect of a past opportunity by obtaining two dollars from somewhere and investing it in "The Poets in Camp."

## CITY HALL WORK PARTY.

Mrs. Stubb reports that during the past two weeks the City Hall Work Party packed the following:—41 shirts, 92 pyjamas, 18 dressing-gowns, 127 vests, 80 bed-jackets, 5 reversible bed-jackets, 10 surgical shirts, 24 shrouds, 8 mosquito nets, 15 small pillows, 25 pairs slippers, 4 pairs invalid boots, 23 milk covers, 24 theatre squares, 15 dozen handkerchiefs, 31 pairs socks, 6 caps, 1 muffler, 1 pair knee-caps, 2 pairs mittens, 4 pairs bed-socks, 6 many-tailed bandages, 4 head bandages, 4 eye bandages, 1 scrubbers, 2 mops, and 10 packs playing cards.

On the 13th March the wool department packed—73 mufflers, 249 pairs socks, 114 pairs knee-caps, 34 pairs operation stockings, 22 caps, 18 pairs gloves and mittens, 12 white caps, and 2 belts.

These were packed in six cases, four of which were sent to the Red Cross distributing centre at Bombay and two to Suez.

In addition to the above fifteen men leaving the Colony were each given, with the best wishes of the City Hall Work Party, one shirt, one muffler, one pair of socks and two handkerchiefs.

The Mothers' Union Work Party during March contributed fifty-five articles to the boxes packed. Thanks are accorded to Mrs. Stackhouse and Mr. T. A. Mackintosh for the parcels of thin clothing that they sent for the use of convalescent officers. A friend passing through Hongkong kindly gave one piece of excellent shirting which made 16 shirts.

## HONGKONG POLICE RESERVE.

ORDERS ISSUED BY MR. F. C. JENKIN, C.B.

DISCIPLINE BOARD.  
Reference Orders February 10th and 20th. A Discipline Board will sit only when summoned, and not regularly on Mondays.

BOOTS.  
Members of the Mounted Police, No. 2 Platoon, No. 3 Company, Ambulance Platoon and Buglers and Drummers who have applied for boots for police duty must attend in person at 7, Queen's Road, East, Fook Sing's shop.

EQUIPMENT PARADES.  
Attention of all members of Nos. 1, 2 and 3 Companies is drawn to Orders of April 12th and 13th.

By Order,  
T. F. HOGAN,  
A.S.P. (R.) and Adj. (at Hongkong, 13th April, 1918.



## CORRESPONDENCE.

## THE RACECOURSE INQUIRY.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG DAILY PRESS."]

SIR,—There are one or two points in connection with the above which, for the sake of the good name of British administration and an honourable profession, had better be dealt with by British subjects, lest others outside that category should use them later to belittle and deride our honesty of purpose.

The inquiry opened with the production of a model of one of the mathseds, and the evidence of the officials and others centred round that shed, which, it was inferred, was a true type of the whole of those three-storey buildings. For more than half of the time the inquiry lasted this model was the standard model to which all the expert officials of the P.W.D. referred in their evidence.

Then a witness (who was, apparently, called upon some other matters) was, quite by accident, shown this precious model while in the witness-box. Critically examining it, his first exclamation was "This cannot be the model of the whole of these mathseds; it is, I don't see how they could have stood up at all." Assured that this was the model of the sheds, he said:—"Well, this shed is so dangerously constructed that the builder must have intended the sheds on either side to be its chief support." The witness proceeded to give reasons for his opinion, and those reasons have not been seriously contested by any real evidence since.

This model which had done duty up to this point was practically discarded, and new models were made, and the enquiry largely switched on to these new models for the remainder of the investigation. One official witness after another (including P.W.D. and R.E.) was called, to prove, apparently, that no single terrace-rouse in Hongkong is ever built to stand on its own legs, so to speak; that the practice of the P.W.D. is to allow rows of houses to be erected each so faulty in construction and material that they are only held up by a good house at each end, to which even then they add tie-rods to keep the whole terrace from falling. Thus, the P.W.D. local architects, engineers, and builders do not consider the stability of each house, but merely satisfy themselves as to the safety of a terrace from the support that is given at the ends. And this strange professional evidence was solemnly tendered in defence of jerry-building just to dispose of the contention that, one of these sheds was faulty in design! What I wish to do by this letter is to protest against this evidence being accepted by our professional brethren or journals at home as the hall-mark of constructional knowledge or practice in Hongkong.

It is unfortunate that in this inquiry the credit of the collapsed buildings and the P.W.D. were bound up together; that if the structure was faulty the P.W.D. was negligent. Even then it were better to face the problem like men, rather than shelter behind alleged expert evidence, which, if true, does positive injury to a universal and honourable profession.—Yours, etc.,

BRITON.

Hongkong, April 13th, 1918.

## TYPHOON WARNINGS.

The following telegram has been received by the American Consulate-General, Hongkong, from the Manila Observatory:—

7.17, April 13th.  
Cyclone or typhoon in 127 degrees Long. East, 15 degrees Lat. North, moving north.

12.30 p.m., April 13th.  
Cyclone or typhoon East of Southern Luzon, moving N.N.W.

## CHARTERED BANK DIVIDEND.

At the approaching annual general meeting of shareholders of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, the Directors will recommend that a dividend be declared for the past half year at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum and a bonus of £1 per share, free of income tax; that £100,000 be added to the Reserve Fund; that £25,000 be added to Officers' Superannuation Fund; that £40,000 be written off Premises Account; and that £167,281 be carried forward.

## SPORT.

## ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL.

HONGKONG LEAGUE.

NAVY, 4; MIDDLESEX REGT., 0.

This match, which was played on the Club ground on Saturday, was the last senior division match of the season, the teams, who should have met twice, having agreed to play for all four points in one encounter. The game was a good one, and although the Navy was the better team the soldiers did not deserve to lose by four goals to love. The Middlesex pressed first and soon tested the goalkeeper, who punched away a shot from Cook. Luxon sent in a good drive at the other end, which was well saved by Turner. A corner followed, which Clarke took and placed behind. A fine dash by Sayer on the Army right wing followed, and a lovely centre from the same player was not accepted, but the ball came back again, and Crocker stopped a good shot. Some good individual work by McNiven almost brought the desired result, and, shortly afterwards, Luxon nearly headed the ball into goal. Turner was having plenty of work to do and did it well, and presently the soldiers cleared. The Army then attacked, and Jarvis put behind. Luxon and McNiven played together splendidly and were responsible for many fine Navy movements. Crocker was enticed out of goal to meet a Middlesex rush, and Jarvis had a fine chance but he shot very wide of the mark. There interval arrived with the score-sheet blank.

Immediately after re-start Lieut. Sayer, who played in his usual brilliant style gave his centre forward a beautiful pass, but, though the latter player was only a few yards from goal, the ball was sent high over the bar. Then a clever passing movement by McNiven and Luxon resulted in the former getting through and netting well out of Turner's reach, thus giving the Navy the lead. Sayer was well on the road to the goal again when he was pulled up by the whistle. A fine run and centre by the same player shortly afterwards enabled Bravington to test the Navy custodian with a hard shot, but it was fended off successfully. McNiven then put the sailors further ahead by notching a second goal. Shortly afterwards some good individual work by Clarke took the ball into the vicinity of the Army goal. Clarke then got hurt and the game was stopped for a few seconds. On his recovery the ball was bounced uncomfortably near the Army penalty area and Luxon scored the third point for the Navy, the ball touching an opponent on its way into goal. The sailors were having a very large share of the game at this period and soon broke through again. McNiven got clear and made for goal with the ball in front of him, but Turner rushed out and appeared to reach it first, but made his first mistake of the afternoon, with the result that the Navy forward recovered the ball and put it into an open goal. There was no further scoring, the Navy winning by four goals to love. Teams:—

Navy.—Crocker; Conker and Biggs; Chapman, Smith, and Cape; Clarke, Brotherwood, Luxon, McNiven and Travis.

Middlesex.—Turner; Fisher and Fawthrop; Turner, Fawthrop, and Allen; Sayer, Cook, Jarvis, Boroxted, and Bravington.

Referee.—Mr. Tucker.

## HONGKONG LEAGUE—DIVISION II.

87th CO. R.G.A., 2; SOUTH CHINA ATHLETIC, 1.

This was an important game, as a win for the Athletic would have given them the league. The wet ground, however, put them off their usual game, and their shooting, although good in the early stages, left much to be desired. The gunners were without Saunders, who is probably the most useful number of their team, but they played a good hard game and deserved their success.

The soldiers attacked determinedly from the kick-off, and before long put in a shot which gave the civilian goalkeeper a lot of trouble. The Chinese broke away, but the soldiers came back again and, after a few minutes' play, Turner netted neatly from a nice left wing pass. This shook up the Chinese team and they got into their stride better. Britnell came out to clear one of their attempts, and, at the other end, Small narrowly missed putting the gunners still further ahead. Then the Chinese almost scored. Their objective

right beat Devine and put in a beautiful kick. The ball ran along the cross-bar before dropping behind, and three Chinese players ran into the net in their eagerness to get at it. A foul against the Artillery not far from goal gave the Athletic another chance, but Britnell touched the ball over the bar. Then a mistake by Watts let the Chinese through, and Au Kit San equalised with a good shot. Watkinson put in a hard drive from the right soon after the kick-off, and the goalkeeper, being rather slow in clearing, Turner almost hustled the ball into the net. An Athletic movement was spoiled by offside, and afterwards the civilians looked very dangerous but could not get past Britnell. Another break-away by the R.A. followed by a good shot from Knight, caused the Athletic custodian to push the ball away, and it was cleared by a defender. At the interval each side claimed a goal.

In the second half both sides continued to play hard, and from a kick-off by the Army the Chinese netted, but the whistle had blown because the player was not the necessary ten yards from the ball when the kick was taken, the goal being, of course, disallowed. Watkinson was responsible for scoring the winning goal with an excellent shot. The Athletics were afterwards awarded a penalty for hands, but Chung Wing Hon who took the kick, shot straight at the goalkeeper, who saved and cleared. The 87th Company retained their lead until the end, and have the honour of being the only military team to defeat the Athletic this season.

The result of the second division will now depend on the South China Athletic v. St. Joseph's College match. This will take place Saturday week, next Saturday's game having been postponed on account of the Marathon race.

Referee.—Mr. Black.

## STAFF AND DEPARTMENTS, 3, ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE, 1.

These teams met on the Navy ground. Like the Chinese, the College did not seem at all happy on the soft ground, and the soldiers won fairly easily. In the first half, Ellarby and Kirby scored a goal each for the Staff, the civilians failing to respond.

Soon after the interval the Staff gained a rather lucky goal, for the ball appeared to be going behind—in fact, the St. Joseph's custodian turned his back to it but it altered its course and entered the net, much to the surprise of the players. The civilians had several chances to score, but their shooting was wild; on one occasion, indeed, the ball was kicked well over at a range of a few yards. The only goal for St. Joseph's was scored in this half, the ball being beautifully headed into the net from a corner.

Referee.—Mr. Atwell.

## R.E. RES., 4; KOWLOON, 0.

The R.E. met Kowloon, on Saturday, on the Navy Ground and won by four goals to love. Pascall scored a goal during the first half, and Millard one and Waller two in the second half.

## LEAGUE TABLES.

## HONGKONG LEAGUE.

Club	P	W	L	D	F	A	P.
R.G.A.	8	8	0	0	15	1	16
R.E.	8	5	2	1	10	4	11
Navy	8	3	5	0	8	9	6
H.K.F.C.	8	1	4	3	6	14	5
Middlesex	8	0	6	2	2	25	2

## HONGKONG LEAGUE, DIVISION II.

Club	P	W	L	D	F	A	P.
87th Co.	16	11	2	3	51	14	28
R. China Ath.	15	11	2	2	23	8	24
R.E. Reserves	10	8	2	6	30	19	23
Staff and Dpt.	16	7	5	3	23	30	17
St. Jos. Col.	16	7	7	1	25	15	15
87th Co.	16	7	8	1	19	24	15
Kowloon	16	5	8	3	26	31	13
88rd Co.	16	4	11	1	19	41	9
Middlesex R.	16	0	14	2	12	50	2

## HOCKEY.

## H.K.D.C. v. 87th CO. R.G.A.

The following team will represent the Defence Corps in this League match at Happy Valley to-day; bully off, 5 p.m.:—E. W. Hamilton; W. H. Edmonds and C. O. Hickling; F. A. Redmond; F. W. S. Evans, and G. H. Piercy; J. Staker, A. Morse, K. Brayshaw (Capt.), F. E. Joseland, and P. H. Cook.

## CHINESE Y.M.C.A. SPORTS.

## AN INTERESTING AFTERNOON'S CONTESTS.

Despite the inclemency of the weather the Chinese Y.M.C.A. held a successful sports meeting at Causeway Bay on Saturday afternoon. There was a large gathering of spectators, chiefly members of the Chinese community. The Y.M.C.A. Band played selections of music, and refreshments were dispensed by an Assiduous Committee, to whom credit is due for their successful arrangements.

In consequence of the sodden condition of the ground, the going was heavy and prevented any new records being made, but the several events were keenly contested. A very creditable exhibition of Swedish and other drills was given by Y.M.C.A. school boys, who later indulged in several games and took part in some of the sport. At the conclusion of the afternoon, Mr. Chan Harr, the President, distributed the awards to the successful competitors. Mrs. Chan Harr was to have performed this ceremony but was unable to attend owing to indisposition.

The Championship Cup was won by W. Gittins.

The results were as follow:—  
Long Jump Championship:—1, W. Gittins; 2, Emerun; 3, Hung Kan San. Distance: 17ft. 5in.

100 Yards Championship:—1, W. Gittins; 2, Hung Kan San; 3, Chin. Time: 11.3secs.

High Jump Championship:—1, W. Gittins; 2, Chin Ky; 3, Chan Wai Yan. Height: 4ft. 0in.

One Mile Race Championship:—1, D. Lang; 2, Nau; 3, M. Dyer. Time: 6min. 43secs.

Disc. Throwing:—1, M. Dyer; 2, Ko Suk Wai; 3, J. H. Chan. Distance: 54ft. 2in.

Ambulance Brigade Race:—1, L. K. Kit; 2, So Siu Tin; 3, Cheng Lu.

Band Race (three-legged):—1, Ho Kan Fan and Ko Yau Chin; 2, M. Y. Tak and To Mao.

220 Yards Championship:—1, W. Gittins; 2, Chin; 3, H. K. San. Time: 37.1secs.

Shot Put:—1, R. Leo; 2, J. R. Chan; 3, H. K. San. Distance: 20ft. 7in.

Two Mile Bicycle Race (Open):—1, R. Leo; 2, C. Chan.

440 Yards Handicap:—1, H. K. San; 2, H. Y. San; 3, So Mun.

Javelin Throwing:—1, M. Dyer; 2, Yip Kwan; 3, Ko Sik Wai. Distance: 76ft.

Team Race:—1, W. Gittins, H. K. San, So Mun, and O. Laing; 2, Ching Kwong Yuen, Emerun, Chai Wai Yan, and H. Slung.

Half-Mile Walking Race:—1, G. F. Turner; 2, M. Dyer; 3, H. K. Shang.

Consolation Race:—1, H. Slung; 2, C. Ling.

Half-Mile Bicycle Race (Open):—1, C. Chan; 2, R. Leo.

Tue. or Wan:—1, Y.M.C.A. Ambulance Division.

The officials were as follows:—President—Mr. Chan Harr; Vice-President—Mr. Kwok Chao; Referee—Mr. Lau Fuk Ki; Starter—Mr. Un How Fan; Time Keepers—Mr. J. L. McPherson, Mr. R. F. Rope, and Mr. H. Gittins; Judges of Finish—Mr. J. M. Wong, Mr. Tso Wai Man, and Mr. James Lam; Field Judges—Mr. G. F. Turner, Mr. Geo. Lam, and Mr. Geo. Lee; Scorer—Mr. F. M. Mohler; Announcer—Mr. Chan Hing Wai; Clerk of the Course—Mr. F. H. Farno; Handicap Committee—Messrs. Ip Kwan, J. R. Chan, and H. Gittins; Officials for Day School Events—Messrs. Lee Siu Pak, Cheung King Sung, Ho Chung J, Chu Sau Ming, and Hui Shiu Lau; Prize Committee—Messrs. Wong Kam Ying, George Wilson, Lau Fuk Ki, H. H. Slung, Chan Wa Sui, Lai-Mau Wai, and Hung Wai Sang; Refreshment Committee—Messrs. Cheung Kat Shing, T. Moffat, U. U. Tek, Leung Shi Nam, Ip Cho Sang, Yeung Cheuk Man, and Wong Tong.

## GENERAL SIR STANLEY MAUDE'S WILL.

Lieut. General Sir Frederick Stanley Maude, D.S.O., Commanding the British Expeditionary Force in Mesopotamia, of Mardale, Watford, who died of fever in Mesopotamia on November 18th, aged 54 years, left property of the value of £1,632. The sole executor of the will, dated August 26th, 1914, is Mr. Wilfred General Stanhope Taylor, of 12, Mitre Court, Temple. The testator gives:—

The Victoria Cross, medals, orders and decorations, records and trophies of the Crimean and Indian campaigns, his sword, and the Thanks of both Houses of Parliament to his late father, General Sir E. Maude, and also his own medals, decorations, trophies, diaries, silver cups, and the gold cigarette case given to him by King George V., to his son, to be treated as heirlooms, or, at his discretion, to be given to the Buffs or the Coldstream Guards.

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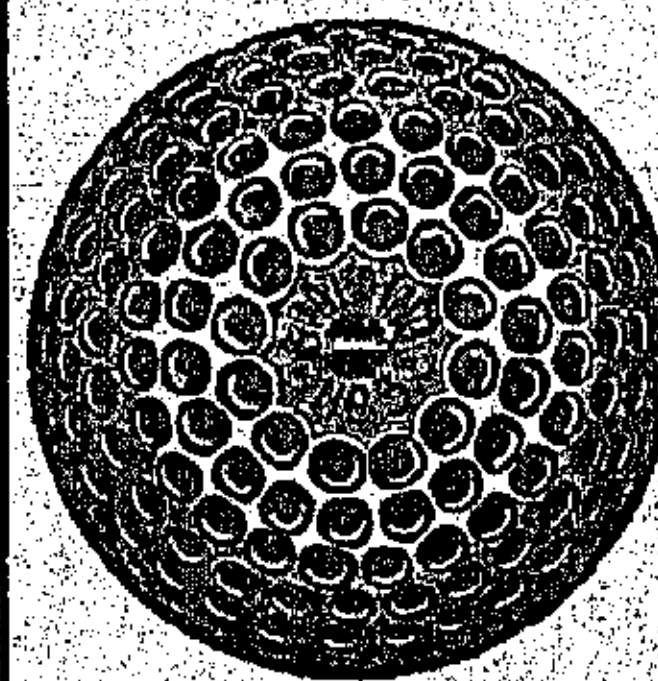
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1918

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## INTIMATIONS

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF HONGKONG.  
ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.  
IN THE MATTER OF THE CHINA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED,  
and  
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ORDINANCES 1911 and 1913.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on the 21st day of March, 1918, presented to the Supreme Court of Hongkong by the above-named Company to confirm an alteration of the said Company's Resolution of the Company unanimously passed at an Extraordinary General Meeting of the said Company held on the 14th day of February, 1918, and subsequently unanimously confirmed at an Extraordinary General Meeting of the said Company held on the 14th day of March, 1918, and which Resolution runs as follows:-

"That the provisions of the Company's Memorandum of Association with respect to its objects be altered so as to read as shown in the print signed for the purpose of identification by the Chairman of this Meeting."  
AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before His Honour Sir WILLIAM PEARCE, Knight, Chief Justice, on the 25th day of April, 1918, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, and any person interested in the said Company whether as Creditor, Policyholder, or otherwise desirous to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said alteration under the above Ordinance should appear at the time of hearing by himself or his Counsel for the purpose, and a copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undersigned, the Company's Solicitors, on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Dated this 2nd of March, 1918.  
DEACON, LOCKER, DEACON & HARTON,  
1, Des Vaux Road Central,  
Hongkong,  
Solicitors for the Company. [1840]

## HONGKONG JOCKEY CLUB.

## NOTICE

THE HALF-YEARLY MEETING of Members will be held on SATURDAY, the 27th April, 1918, at 12 o'clock Noon, at the Offices of the Jockey Club on the Ground Floor of the Hongkong Club Annex, Chater Road.  
By Order,  
T. F. HOUGH,  
Clerk of the Course.  
Hongkong, 13th April, 1918. [1890]

## THIRD LIBERTY LOAN.

THE Subscription List for the THIRD LIBERTY LOAN of U.S. \$3,000,000,000 carrying interest at 4 1/4 per cent. per annum closes in America on 4th May, 1918.  
THE INTERNATIONAL BANKING CORPORATION is prepared to receive applications up to 28th April, on the following terms:-

6% on application.  
20% on 31st May.  
35% on 11th July.  
40% on 8th August.  
and will also grant loans against this security. [1890]

## PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned has received instructions to sell by Public Auction, TO-DAY (MONDAY), the 15th April, 1918, commencing at 11 A.M., at the Talkoo Sugar Refinery (FOR ACCOUNT OF THE CONCERNED),

133 BALES GUNNY BAGS (slightly damaged by fire and water).  
543 BALES GUNNY BAGS (slightly damaged by water).

N.B.—Intending purchasers must obtain a pass to view the goods from the Undersigned.  
TERMS:—Cash on delivery.  
GEO. F. LAMBERT,  
Auctioneer. [1884]

G. F. LAMBERT  
NOTICE

ANY EUROPEAN, Non-Asiatic or Indian desiring to leave the Colony should apply in person at the CENTRAL POST OFFICE between the hours of 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. and 2 P.M. to 5 P.M. daily.  
Applicants will be required to produce Passports or identification papers.  
All persons with certain exceptions who remain in the Colony for more than 7 days are required to Register themselves under the REGISTRATION OF PERSONS ORDINANCE 1916.  
Forms of Registration giving the particulars required may be obtained at the G.P.O. and at all Police Stations.  
The Penalty for non-compliance is a fine not exceeding \$50. [1884]

## GRACA &amp; CO.

No. 4, WINDHAM STREET, HONGKONG.  
Dealers in  
POSTAGE STAMPS, VIEW POST CARDS,  
FLOWER SEEDS, TOYS, &c.  
Just received a Selection of  
MAMA DOLLS  
I TALK!! [1845]

## INTIMATIONS

NOTICE.  
UNION INSURANCE SOCIETY OF CANTON, LTD.

THE CERTIFICATE No. 3051 for 36 Shares Nos. 11410 to 11445 standing in the books of the Society in the name of FRANCISCO DE PAULA CERRANO late of Wimbledon, Middlesex, England, has been declared LOST and if at the expiration of one month from the date hereof the above document be not forthcoming, another Certificate for the said Shares will be issued by the Society and thereafter no other will be acknowledged.  
C. MONTAGUE EDE,  
General Manager.  
Hongkong, 10th April, 1918. [1879]

## THE DAIRY FARM CO. LTD.

APPLICATION has been made to the Directors of this Company to issue to WALTER DOUGLAS GRAHAM of Hongkong (deceased) a duplicate Certificate or Certificates in lieu thereof upon the statement that the Original Certificate No. 1918 for Shares numbered 28775 28834 and dated 11th January, 1918, has been LOST or DESTROYED, AND NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that if within 30 days, from the date hereof no claims or representation in respect of such Original Certificate is made to the Directors they will proceed to deal with such application for a Certificate.  
M. MANUK,  
Secretary.  
Dated 4th day of April, 1918. [1860]

## WANTED.

STENOGRAPHER, Male or Female. State experience, salary required and references. Apply—  
Box No. 100  
Care of "Daily Press" Office. [1817]

## WANTED.

ENGINEER, with First-Class Certificate and many years' experience in China, is open for engagement. Reasonable Salary. Good References.  
Apply—  
Box No. 12,  
Care of "Daily Press" Office. [1888]

## WAI KEE.

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&c., &c. &c. [1889]

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THE Homeward Mail Steamer, carrying His Majesty's Mail, will be despatched from this port as usual, taking Passengers and Cargo for the above Ports. Passengers accommodation in the connecting vessel secured before departure from Hongkong.  
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Parcels will be received at the Office until 3 P.M. the day before sailing. The contents and value of all packages are required.  
For further particulars, sailing dates, etc., apply to  
E. V. D. PARR,  
Superintendent.

## NOW ON SALE.

HONGKONG HANDBOOK REPORTS  
of the MEETING of the  
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Session, 1917.  
REVISED BY THE MEMBERS.

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## HOUSES TO LET

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GODOWN in Wanchai district, area 4,500 square feet, moderate rental.  
Apply—  
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Care of "Daily Press" Office. [1891]

TO LET.  
NO. 64, PEAK, FURNISHED, from July 1st, for four months. Tennis Court.  
Apply to—  
C. E. H. REAVIS,  
9, Queen's Road. [1889]

TO LET.  
RESIDENTIAL FLAT in Prince's Building.  
Apply to—  
THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY CO., LTD. [1878]

TO LET.  
COMMERCIAL and well-fitted SHOP in Alexandra Buildings.  
Apply—  
SECRETARY,  
A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED. [1853]

TO LET.  
From 1st May next.  
NO. 1, AIMAI VILLAS, corner of Kimberley and Austin Road, Kowloon, one Six-Roomed House, with separate Bath Rooms and Kitchens.  
Apply to—  
PATELL & CO.,  
King's Buildings, Top Floor. [1805]

TO LET.  
NO. 2, CANTON VILLAS, Kowloon.  
Apply to—  
THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY CO., LTD. [1878]

TO LET.  
IMMEDIATE entry. Four very desirable SHOPS, situated in Ice House Street, opposite the Grand Hotel, recently reconstructed.  
For rent and other particulars apply to—  
THE MANAGER,  
Hongkong Ice Co., Ltd.,  
40, Connaught Road Central. [1890]

TO LET.  
OFFICES in York Buildings.  
No. 1, MORETON TERRACE, HOUSES on Shamone, Canton.  
Apply to—  
THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY CO., LTD. [1878]

TO LET.  
A FLAT in Nathan Road, Kowloon.  
FOUR-ROOMED HOUSES in Kowloon.  
Apply to—  
HUMPHREYS ESTATE & FINANCE CO., LTD.,  
Alexandra Buildings. [1838]

FOR SALE.  
TUSCULUM, Barker Road, 154, Peak.  
Apply—  
DUNCAN CLARK,  
Care of LANE, CRAWFORD & CO. [1711]

FOR SALE.  
"GALESEND," 109, The PEAK ROOMS.  
Apply—  
C. H. GALE,  
P.W.D. [1834]

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HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

TEL. 16. [18]

MARRIAGE.  
FOWLER-PARKER.—In Oakland, California, on March 28th, VIDA, daughter of Mrs. ISABEL FOWLER and the late Mr. JOHN FOWLER (Chartered Bank of L. A. & China), to Rev. LEISTER PARKER, of Oakland, California.

Hongkong Office: 10, Des Vaux Road, C. London Office: 121, FLEET STREET, E.C.

## The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, 15TH APRIL, 1918.

## THE RACECOURSE DISASTER INQUIRY.

AFTER an investigation occupying more than twenty days, and involving the examination of scores of witnesses, we are still in the dark regarding the cause of the terrible disaster on the Race Course in February. There are theories in plenty, but they do not coincide, and the inquiry has been unsuccessful in showing that the balance of evidence favours one much more than another. A few definite facts emerge. The original cause of the disaster was not an outbreak of fire, but the collapse of the sheds, which failed to meet the demands made upon them by legitimate use. The weakness was first noticeable somewhere near the centre of the row, and the fire, which started practically at the same point, was due to the inflammable matting coming into contact with the burning charcoal from some cooking chatty. Why the structure should have stood the strain on Monday and not on Tuesday is a mystery. There were certain weaknesses in design, but they were not fatal weaknesses, for the sheds had been built in a similar manner in all essential particulars for at least the last three years, and there had been no accident previously. Indeed, one expert stated that the sheds this year were superior, from a structural point of view, to those of 1916. The materials were sound, the Government inspection was probably neither worse nor better than it had been before, and there is no reason for believing that the contractor

scamped his work or exercised less care than usual. There was no panic, and no great importance can be attached to the theory that the lashings were cut or the sheds tampered with in any other way. Accepting all these statements, only two alternative conclusions are left to us to draw—either the material developed some latent defect, or the sheds have been morally unsafe for years past and the alterations and modifications introduced this year, though slight and almost insignificant in themselves, have acted as the proverbial last straw which broke the camel's back.

We do not pretend to be able to pass judgment upon the conflicting opinions of the expert witnesses. Colonel WARD, who speaks with a considerable knowledge of scaffolding, emphatically condemned a model of one of the sheds, and even went so far as to point to the principle of its construction as a sufficient explanation of the whole calamity. Standing alone, the structure was obviously top-heavy and unsafe. Other experts admitted its instability when isolated, but pointed out that on the racecourse it was buttressed on either side by other sheds, and said they were satisfied that it was perfectly legitimate that it should derive its necessary support in this way. The principle is, apparently, adopted in many of the terrace-houses in this Colony. This point is discussed in a letter from a correspondent which we publish this morning, and we draw particular attention to it because we consider it of considerable importance. At home, we are informed, every house has to be self-supporting, whether it be in a row or not; whether it be on the hillside or upon level ground. If such a regulation is considered necessary in the interests of public safety in England, how much more vital is it in Hongkong, where typhoons are of frequent occurrence and heavy rains play havoc with foundations. The matter is one which demands some official explanation.

With regard to the responsibility of the Public Services, the faltering criticism of the Jury seems scarcely consistent with the serious opinion of the Coroner that the calamity was one which could most probably have been prevented by the exercise of reasonable foresight. If this means anything at all it means that over 500 lives might have been saved if the officials concerned had carried out their duties intelligently and with a due sense of responsibility. As the Jury, however, did not directly answer the question addressed to them as to the possibility of the prevention of the collapse, it may be assumed that they do not share the Coroner's definite views.

They contented themselves with regretting that the Director of Public Works had not exercised closer supervision and that the Captain Superintendent of Police had neglected to take obvious necessary precautions. As far as the Government Departments are concerned the inquiry divided itself naturally into two sections. The Public Works Department is responsible for seeing that the sheds are structurally sound; while the Police and the Fire Brigade have cast upon them the duty of regulating the conduct of the crowds and providing the necessary precautions against fire. Both Departments—and, incidentally, the Government—are responsible for the absence of any regulations which might be regarded as necessary to the efficient performance of the Departmental duties, and, in this connection, a lack of consultation and co-operation between the Police and Public Works was noted. It must be admitted that the general trend of the evidence, especially towards the close, seemed to relieve the Public Works Department of blame in regard to the structural soundness of the booths. The Department can scarcely be held responsible for the development of a latent weakness in material, the physical properties of which are absolutely unknown; and a number of expert witnesses were courageous enough to declare that they would have passed the building as it stood. Dangerous precedents, however, will be established if public officers are allowed lightly to ignore the provisions of any Ordinance which, in their judgment, do not apply to any particular case, though, in the special circumstances under consideration, it seems unlikely that any radical changes would have been made in the sheds even if plans had been deposited, for in Hongkong

there is a great respect for "old custom." A similar remark may be made with reference to the regulations regarding gambling. It seems absurd to have a provision which is, and is intended to be, a dead letter, and we feel that there will be whole-hearted support of the Coroner's request that in all these matters legislation should coincide with authorised practice. It certainly seems inexplicable, however, that even after the Captain-Superintendent of Police had made a mental note of the terrible disaster which would surely follow an outbreak of fire, no precautions of any kind were taken to guard against such a possibility. The water-supply from the main is admittedly inadequate—and is, apparently, likely to remain inadequate for some time—but a few buckets of water outside each shed, and a hose in readiness, might have been sufficient to extinguish the flames at the outset. Even if it had been found impossible to subdue the flames in this way owing to the mass of debris following the collapse, the provision of such simple expedients would, at least, have served to exonerate the Department from a charge of negligence by showing that, when alive to the danger, they adopted such measures as lay within their power to combat it.

It has not been proved that matchboxes generally are unsafe. It has simply been shown that no-one knows how safe or unsafe they may be, and, in these circumstances, the Jury are right, theoretically, in recommending that their use at the Race meeting should be abolished. If such a course is found impracticable the Jury suggest measures which will reduce the risk of accident and loss of life to a minimum. The sheds should be of one storey only, and should be erected with gaps between them large enough to prevent, or retard, the spread of fire and weakness in one affecting its neighbours. These are obviously sound conclusions. The other recommendations of the Jury deal with matters which should receive the prompt and serious attention of the Legislative Council.

Many friends in the Far East will hear with pleasure that Brigadier-General E. D. Bruce is shortly due in Holland, if he is not already there.

During the 24 hours of Friday 15th cases of cerebro-spinal fever (all of them Chinese) were notified in the Colony. The deaths numbered 10.

The total output of the Kailan Mining Administration's mines for the week ending 30th March amounted to 67,985 tons, and the sales to 54,248 tons.

News has been received from Salonika that Capt. W. R. McBain, who was recently awarded the Military Cross, has been promoted to the rank of Major in the Royal Flying Corps.

The London Gazette announces that Military medals have been awarded to Naik Bah Singh and Naik Ghulam Hussain, both of the Hongkong and Singapore Garrison Artillery.

It is notified in the Gazette that at the expiration of three months the Pacific Transportation Co., Ltd., will unless cause is shown to the contrary, be struck off the Register and the Company dissolved.

Ladies of the Committee and Sub-Committee of St. George's Day are requested to call at the Helena May Institute this morning between 10 and 12 for baskets, spoils and collecting this for the Tombola. After this date every one must apply to Mr. J. Bentley, Messrs. Thomas Cook & Sons.

The Hon. Mr. D. Landale has been appointed a member of the Recreation Grounds Committee, as representative of the Royal Hongkong Golf Club, vice Mr. E. V. D. Parr, resigned. Mr. Landale has also been appointed a member of the Authorised Architects' Committee.

Mr. Alexander N. Hansell for nearly 30 years a resident of Kobe, is leaving Kobe for Hankow, where he enters into partnership with a firm of architects. The members of the Kobe Club, of which he was for many years Hon. Secretary and later President have presented him with a handsome tea-service.

Lieut. E. F. Hardman, son of Mr. M. Hardman, of the China Inland Mission, was reported as missing on March 28th. Mr. E. F. Hardman, who was with Messrs. Lowe, Bincham & Matthews, left for home in April, 1916, and was given a commission in the 10th Machine Gun Squad, 4th Cavalry Div. His elder brother, Lieut. H. Beaufort Hardman, of the 3rd Cameron Highlanders was killed in action.

Two very enjoyable whist-drives were held at Belchere and Mount Davis on Tuesday and Thursday last respectively, under the auspices of the "Services" Entertainment Fund. Both were well attended. The Committee are to be congratulated on their choice of prizes, which, as on other occasions, were both useful and ornamental. The arrangements were well carried out by Sergt-Major Allison, assisted by a working Committee. Refreshments and cigarettes were provided at the interval. The prize-winners were as follow:—Belchere, 1st, Staff-Sergt. Collins; 2nd, Gr. Green; 3rd, Sergt. Griffiths; 4th, Gr. Smith; 5th, Gr. Johnson. Mount Davis—1st, Gr. Dickenson; 2nd, Gr. Evans; 3rd, Gr. McCormack; 4th, Dewhurst; 5th, Gr. Rudkin.



# THE WAR.

## SIR DOUGLAS HAIG TO HIS TROOPS: THE ENEMY HAS YET MADE LITTLE PROGRESS TOWARDS HIS GOALS.

"EACH ONE OF US MUST FIGHT ON TO THE END"

## THE MAN-POWER BILL: INCREASE OF AGE-LIMIT AND COMPULSION IN IRELAND PASSED.

## THE IRISH CONVENTION'S REPORT.

## EMPEROR KARL AND PEACE OVERTURES TO FRANCE.

### Brancu-Belgian Front.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

#### BRITISH FRONT.

#### ENEMY DRIVEN OUT OF NEUVE ENLOISE.

LONDON, April 13th.  
11.25 p.m.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—As a result of last night's fighting in the neighbourhood of Neuve Enloise, the enemy succeeded, after a prolonged struggle, in forcing his way into the village. Our vigorous counter-attacks this morning drove out the enemy, and we captured a number of prisoners, including a battalion commander.

We successfully repulsed a later attack, and also a number of other attacks at different points along the battle-front northward of La Bassée Canal.

#### SEVERAL ENEMY ATTACKS REPULSED.

LONDON, April 13th.  
4.45 p.m.

There were three separate attacks on our line south-westward, westward and northward of Merville, which in each case were repulsed after heavy fighting. We successfully drove back an attempted attack southward of Metern, and we also beat off four attacks launched on our positions south-eastward of Baillieu. Heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy.

This afternoon a hostile attack in strength has developed between Metern-Bacque and the river, south-westward of Metern and Wulverghem. Severe fighting is taking place on the whole of this front.

On other parts of the British front there is no change.

#### BRITISH SLOWLY PUSHED BACK.

LONDON, April 12th.  
11.55 p.m.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—The enemy maintained a strong pressure throughout the day southward and south-westward of Baillieu, making constant attacks in great force, which are still continuing.

We have been slowly pushed back in the continuous fighting to positions in the neighbourhood of the Baillieu railway, where we are heavily engaging the enemy.

There was sharp fighting also northward of the La Bassée Canal.

The enemy slightly progressed between the Lowe and Clarence rivers. Elsewhere our positions have been maintained.

Over 110 German Divisions have so far been engaged since March 21st, of which over 40 have been thrown into the battle, twice and thrice.

#### SITUATION UNCHANGED.

LONDON, April 13th.  
3 p.m.

Heavy fighting developed last evening in the neighbourhood of Neuve Eglise and Wulverghem, and was still continuing late last night.

We advanced our line slightly in the neighbourhood of Festubert, securing a few prisoners.

The enemy launched a strong attack, preceded by a heavy bombardment, eastward of Locon, and succeeded in entering our lines at certain points, but were driven out by a counter-attack.

We beat off a second attack later in the night, and also repulsed an attack westward of Merville.

The situation on the remainder of the north battle-front is unchanged.

Sharp local fighting occurred yesterday south of the Somme in the neighbourhood of Hangard. Anglo-French counter-attacks regained positions into which the enemy had penetrated.

The enemy's artillery is more active north of the Somme.

### AERIAL OPERATIONS.

LONDON, April 13th.  
12.40 a.m.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, reporting on aviation, says:—

The atmospheric conditions were favourable yesterday for a great concentration of our aeroplanes on the battle-front. Large numbers of low-flyers were employed in bombing and machine-gunning the roads, which were packed with enemy troops.

Thirty-six tons of bombs were dropped and over 110,000 rounds of ammunition were fired by us.

Other formations, flying at a greater height, engaged the enemy's aeroplanes, which were extremely active in this sector.

Other machines reconnoitred the battle area, bringing back information of the positions of our own and the enemy's troops.

When the mist cleared, there was great activity on the whole front.

We made several long-distance reconnaissances, taking photographs of much of the fighting.

We brought down 21 aeroplanes and drove down 14.

Four of ours are missing and two of ours, reported missing yesterday, have since returned.

We dropped over eight tons of bombs last night on Bapaume, villages southward of the Somme, and military objects at Ostend and Zebrugge. One of our machines is missing.

We successfully bombed Sablon and the railway station at Metz to-day, dropping 22 heavy bombs, all of which burst on the railway sidings.

All our planes returned.

#### ENEMY PRESSURE CONTINUED.

LONDON, April 13th.  
2.10 p.m.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—There was severe and continuous fighting last night in the neighbourhood of Merville and Neufberguin. The enemy, continuing his pressure, progressed in both localities and captured Merville at night-time. He succeeded, after heavy fighting in the neighbourhood of Plogteert, in pressing us back to new positions in the neighbourhood of Neuve Eglise.

The situation on the remainder of the northern battle-front is substantially unchanged.

A counter-attack regained a portion of our position into which the enemy had penetrated northward of Festubert.

The enemy's attacks on the Loise-Lawe front and northwards were repulsed.

Fighting continues on the whole front and northward of La Bassée Canal as far as Hollebeke. Strong local attacks on our positions in the neighbourhood of Neuville Vitasse were repulsed.

The enemy entered a post near Tilloy, but was immediately driven out, and the post was re-established. There is increased hostile artillery firing astride the Somme.

#### ENEMY STRAINING EVERY EFFORT.

LONDON, April 13th.  
11.55 p.m.

Reuter's Correspondent at Headquarters, telegraphing this evening, states:—The enemy continues to strain every effort to break through in Flanders. Already 30 enemy divisions have been thrown in, including reserves from other parts of the front. The enemy is employing his great gun-power, reinforced by heavy tanks, in a very severe test upon our troops.

Their response, in courage and endurance, defies all praise. By the sustained pressure of dense masses and the constant blows of "shock" tactics, the enemy has succeeded during the past 24 hours in advancing in the centre of his attack.

The flanks are holding firm. The enemy has extended the narrowness of his salient in a way which nothing but an immense superiority in numbers could render tactically feasible nor be achieved. We have been counter-attacking to-day, and the battle is fiercely progressing.

The clear weather is enabling our air-men to thoroughly reconnoitre, co-operating in the combat with very effective results.

The enemy's objectives in this drive include Baillieu, Aire Bethune and Merville.

The enemy had 200 divisions at the beginning of the offensive on the Western Front, of which 20 are believed to be practically unfit for the battle-line, 20 Divisions have been thrown in on the battle-line since March 21st, and 45 times, while over four times that number of divisions have been hurled against the British line against the French.

### ENEMY MAN-POWER EXTRAVAGANCE.

The enemy rate of spending his man-power cannot be long maintained. Already to a considerable extent the 1918 class are being sent to refit battle-line divisions, while the calling up of the 1920 class began a month ago.

Our reinforcements are steadily coming up. From Givenchy to Locon our line is holding well. Everywhere our troops are fighting magnificently.

Owing to pressure we have fallen back slightly in the area east of Baillieu.

### STRATEGIC SITUATION UNALTERED.

LONDON, April 13th.  
11.05 p.m.

Reuter's Correspondent at British Headquarters, telegraphing this evening, states:—The general situation at the moment seems to justify the hope that the Germans will achieve no more towards a decision in Flanders than they have done in Picardy and Artois. They have overrun a lot of territory and scored a series of tactical achievements, but the strategic situation remains unaltered, for so long as the Allied armies continue to face the enemy in an unbroken line of men and guns the issue for them remains as clear as before they were pressed out of the position they occupied prior to March 21st.

### SITUATION STEADILY IMPROVING.

The situation at the week-end is steadily improving in our favour. Although the German delivered several heavy attacks to-day at various points, all were repulsed. Not only has the enemy apparently made no progress anywhere, but the retaking of Neuve Enloise by our troops may force him to relax his effort in the direction of Baillieu. There is a tendency towards a lull in the offensive, which probably means that the Germans are very tired.

### DETERMINED ENEMY ATTACKS.

LONDON, April 13th.  
4.55 p.m.

Reuter's Correspondent at British Headquarters, telegraphing to-day states:—The enemy to-day continues to press his offensive on the northern line unrelentingly with French troops.

The weather again is hazy, limiting observation.

The Germans launched a mass attack last night, penetrating the line east of Locon. Our counter-attack drove them back with big casualties.

The enemy three hours later assaulted the same spot, and was again repulsed, yet another attack, was no more successful.

### BRILLIANT ANGLO-FRENCH LOCAL SUCCESS.

The also attacked near La Bassée, carrying a strong trench position. The night was wonderfully clear, and our air-men were intensely active, bombing enemy concentrations. It was a brilliant local success which the British and French won at Hangard, where we carried strong positions.

The enemy secured a direct hit upon the famous Amiens Cathedral.

### FIERCE BATTLE RAGING.

LONDON, April 13th.  
4.10 p.m.

Reuter's Correspondent at Headquarters, telegraphing this morning, in brilliant sunshine and clear visibility, with a fierce, which has scarcely flagged since it began. The situation continues to be indefinite in many parts of the very wide battlefield, therefore only a general and incomplete outline of the position is possible. There has been no appreciable change from Givenchy to the river Lowe during the past twenty-four hours.

We successfully beat off a heavy attack upon Loise, and also repulsed with immense enemy losses, three attacks launched in big waves near Neuve Chapelle. The ground in front of our line was strewn with corpses. Further north our line was withdrawn to a more advantageous defensive position about a thousand yards west of Beupre through Neufberguin and thence in a north-westerly direction to La Verrier.

Thus the enemy salient has become considerably more acute, though I hear the enemy is still pressing on the town of Merville.

We counter-attacked later south-westward from the direction of Baillieu and did not succeed in pushing back the enemy, although we punished him heavily.

The Germans are throwing in reserves in the same prodigal manner as during the opening days of the present offensive. Prisoners unanimously agree that the German High Command's object is to swamp the British by sheer weight of numbers.

The enemy determinedly attacked along the Messines Ridge, where the South Africans, who had hardly rested after a splendid share in the recent southern fighting, did such grand work in restoring the situation on Wednesday afternoon. The enemy succeeded in gaining some ground, but the South Africans again drove him out by a spirited counter-attack in combination with British troops. The enemy artillery opened a heavy bombardment at 2.45 this morning from east of Plogteert. No report has yet arrived of subsequent infantry action. The German guns were also plastering the Dame Strasse area early this morning. Our artillery was kept intensely busy. Our air-men in great numbers are rendering invaluable aid. The Germans are developing great artillery activity in the southern area, which possibly heralds further infantry attacks.

The Bray-Corbic road was fiercely shelled from three till daylight, and the valley west of Saille-le-Sec was under heavy fire all night.

### BRAVEY OF BRITISH GARRISON AT ARMENTIERES.

AMSTERDAM, April 13th.

A semi-official message from Berlin, referring to the capture of Armentieres, says:—Despite envelopment, the garrison held out with extraordinary bravery. Only when assaulted on both flanks simultaneously did the remnant of the brave garrison surrender.

### GERMAN REPORT.

LONDON, April 13th.  
12.45 a.m.

A wireless German official report states:—In the capture of Armentieres an English garrison with 50 officers and 300 men laid down their arms after a brave resistance.

We have captured 45 guns, amongst other booty. The total of prisoners in the battle of Armentieres is now 20,000, including an English General and 200 guns.

The French assault westward of Moreuil broke down, leaving 300 prisoners, who were subsequently killed by the French artillery.

### VON QUART AT ARMENTIERES.

AMSTERDAM, April 13th.

The *Kuonische Volkszeitung* states that General Ferdinand von Quast, who is commanding the Army in the Armentieres sector, is 68. He commanded an Army corps in the invasion of France, also in the Aisne, Champagne and Somme battles.

He became the Commanding General of the Prussian Guards at the beginning of 1917.

### FIELD-MARSHAL HAIG'S APPEAL TO THE TROOPS.

"EVERY POSITION MUST HOLD TO  
THE LAST MAN."

LONDON, April 13th.  
8.25 p.m.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, in a special order issued to-day to the troops in France, says:—

Three weeks ago to-day the enemy began his terrific attacks on a 60-mile front. His objects are to separate us from the French, to take the Channel ports, and to destroy the British Army.

Despite having thrown already 100 Divisions into the battle, and having endured the most reckless sacrifice of life, he has yet made little progress towards his goals. We owe this to the determined fighting and self-sacrifice of our troops. Words fail me to express the admiration that I feel for the splendid resistance offered by all ranks under very trying circumstances. Many amongst us are now tired. To those I would say:—

Victory belongs to the side holding out the longest.

The French Army is moving rapidly and in great force to our support. No other course is open to us but to fight it out. Every position must hold to the last man. There must be no retirement. With our backs to the wall and believing in the justice of our cause, each one of us must fight on to the end, for the safety of our homes and the freedom of mankind depend alike on the conduct of each one of us. This is a critical moment.

### EFFECT OF APPEAL.

LONDON, April 13th.  
7.20 a.m.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig's brave-moving appeal to the troops has profoundly stirred the nation, indicating that the struggle has reached a point that may even be decisive in the war. The words are made the text of articles in the papers, urging every man and woman in the British Isles to take them to heart, while breathing confidence that the noble Armies which have already proved their mettle will leave nothing undone that the men can do, and with the French hurrying to their aid, will yet save the day.

### GLIMPSES OF THE FIGHTING.

LONDON, April 13th.  
7.20 a.m.

The Press Correspondents add little to Reuter's account of the heroic fighting of the British, but the details they give emphasise the supreme courage with which small bodies have held on to outposts sometimes isolated and sometimes cut off from the main body, but all the time inflicting bloody losses.

The Ninth and Fifty-First Divisions are prominently mentioned in these accounts. The Liverpool battalions and other Lancashire, the Durham Light Infantry, Royal Scots, Royal Scottish Fusiliers, the Black Watch, the Gordons, though singled out for special incidents, were but representative of the conduct of the whole Army. Particular praise is accorded for the fighting for Messines Ridge of Scots and South Africans.

The *Times*, in mentioning the latter in an editorial for their conduct on Thursday, describes it as just as fine as on Wednesday when their counter-attack recovered the ridge. Despite their losses, on Thursday they thrust back the Germans from the high ground of the ridge to the Messines-Wytschaete road and held them there against repeated counter-attacks.

A dramatic glimpse of the desperation of the fighting is afforded by an episode in which the Headquarters Staff of two Brigades opposing General Bernhardt's troops on the river Lawe, plunged into the struggle with rifles, while one General led his orderlies to the fray.

Emphasising the gravity of the position some papers point out that the enemy now is only thirty miles from Dunkirk and forty miles from Calais, while apparently the positions on Messines Ridge have turned the whole Northern Army's communications which are imperilled.

Others a little more hopeful point out that the more German divisions that are engaged the easier will be General Foch's task. They state that it is still too soon to assume that the direct thrust in the North for the Channel ports has become the enemy's major operation. The increased activity of German artillery astride the Somme points to a renewal of the contest on a large scale.

### FRENCH FRONT.

#### FRENCH RECOVER HANGARD.

PARIS, April 13th.

A communiqué states:—During the night our counter-attacks in the region of Hangard-en-Santerre completely threw back the enemy.

We again possess the entire village, also the cemetery.

Apart from his ruthless losses the enemy left 70 prisoners in our hands. The artillery duel continues violent in this region.

Between Montdidier and Noyon there were lively bombardments and great patrol activity.

Enemy raids north of Orvillers-Sorel between Miette and the Aisne broke down.

#### FRANCO-AMERICANS SHATTER ATTACKS.

The enemy continues to bombard Rheims, a portion of which is in flames. We are endeavouring to restrict the consequences.

The enemy is renewing his attacks at the Forest of Apremont against Bois Brule.

The Americans, in liaison with our troops, vigorously shattered most of the attacks.

#### LIVELY BOMBARDMENTS.

PARIS, April 12th.

A communiqué states:—Following an intense artillery preparation, the Germans this morning attacked our front at Hangard-en-Santerre and Hougues. A furious fight, lasting all day, developed. The enemy in front of Hougues did not progress.

The Germans, after several fruitless attacks, ceaselessly fed by fresh troops, entered Hangard-en-Santerre.

Counter-attacks brought us back to the western part of the village, where fighting continues desperately.

There was active artillery firing in the Noyon sector.

The Germans bombarded Rheims, where several fires broke out, notably round the Cathedral.

The enemy in the Forest of Apremont strongly attacked our positions at Bois Brule, and gained a footing in the advanced elements.

#### THE THREATENED OBJECTIVE.

PARIS, April 13th.

A semi-official message says:—The German attack on the British in Flanders was originally intended as a diversion, but, owing to the initial success, has been changed into an attack pushed through to the full with fresh divisions. The threatened objective is especially the mining district of Bethune, for it would be very rash for the enemy to aim at reaching Dunkirk. It is impossible to foresee the issue, but it should be contemplated confidently, for the British possess a second very powerful position which they have not yet reached, on which their resistance would be considerably facilitated. Moreover, the arrival of reinforcements cannot fail to re-establish the situation.

PARIS, April 13th.  
2.15 p.m.

A semi-official statement says:—Enemy now seems to be devoting all his effort against the northern front. British line here is convex from the north-southward. From a point west of Hollebeke the line passes Wytschaete, Messines and Neuve Eglise to the approaches south of Baillieu. Hence to Neuf Berguin it attains a maximum advance at Merville, whence it bends south-easterly through Pacaut, Locon and Festubert, where it joins the old line at Givenchy.

The situation is not incapable of being re-established. The cohesion of the British troops in no way destroyed, and the Allied supreme command, now knows what measures to take in order to obviate all possibility of a rupture in the inter-Allied forces. The course of battle should not rouse a lack of confidence, for in such gigantic conflict local fluctuations hardly count. Only the last blows are really important.

As it is essential, in a decisive crisis like the present to remain in the end the stronger, Generalissimo Foch, by sparing his men as long as possible, is awaiting an opportunity. The object of the renewed attack in the south is to retain the French force, there.

### BOMBARDMENT OF PARIS.

PARIS, April 13th.

The long-range gun yesterday killed 2 and wounded 12.

### AMERICANS CO-OPERATING.

A sharp counter-attack by the French and Americans, acting in combination, immediately ejected him.

The Americans took 22 prisoners, belonging to six different units.

Two German aeroplanes and a captive balloon were felled, and 12 were driven down, damaged in the air-fighting.

We dropped 18 tons of bombs on the station at St. Quentin, the aviation ground north of Montdidier, and hangars at Châmpien.

### Naval Activities.

#### [THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.] GERMAN SUBMARINE BOMBARDS MONROVIA.

LONDON, April 13th.

Reuter's Agency learns that a German submarine appeared off the Liberian Coast on April 9th and seized a small armed vessel, which she torpedoed after making the crew prisoner.

The Commander presented an ultimatum to the Government and threatened to bombard Monrovia if the wireless was not dismantled and the French cable closed. This was accordingly done. Later the Commander insisted upon their destruction, which the Government refused to do. The submarine thereupon bombarded Monrovia for one hour, and destroyed the stations and inflicted casualties. A passing steamer interrupted the submarine, and a fight between the two vessels ensued.

#### The Near East.

#### [THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.] OPERATIONS IN PALESTINE. RETREATING ENEMY PURSUED.

LONDON, April 12th.

A Palestine official report states:—Throughout the day fighting was in progress in the coastal sector.

On Wednesday the Turks and Germans penetrated the advanced positions in the direction of Beirakin and Elker, but were eventually ejected.

We advanced our lines at several points, and inflicted substantial losses. We took a few Turks and Germans prisoner.

A Turkish attack on the east bank of the Jordan in the vicinity of Elgho Haniyeh on Thursday broke down with heavy losses under our artillery fire.

Our mounted troops pursued the retreating enemy within a short distance of Shunet Nimrin.

An attack astride the Jericho-Nablus road westward of the Jordan was also repulsed.

#### General.

#### [THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.] THE CZERNIN "LIE." LETTER FALSIFIED.

AMSTERDAM, April 13th.

A Vienna official says that the letter from Emperor Karl, officially published in Paris, is falsified.

#### MISINTERPRETATION OF LETTER SUGGESTED.

AMSTERDAM, April 13th.

It is now significantly admitted in Vienna that the Emperor Karl had sent some kind of a letter as regards Alsace-Lorraine, the explanations taking the form that the letter was misinterpreted or falsified.

#### ITALIAN SHIPPING.

LONDON, April 12th.

The arrivals of Italian shipping during the week were 344, and the sailings 318. Of the sinkings there were one steamer over 1,500 tons and three sailing vessels, of whom one was over 100 tons.

#### RUSSIAN AFFAIRS. THE TURKISH OFFENSIVE.

LONDON, April 13th.

The Russian Government has sent a Note to Berlin declaring that the offensive of the Turkish troops on the Caucasian Front has been followed by the murder of the whole Armenian population, women and children being killed mercilessly, property plundered and burnt. The peace Treaty which the Russians were forced to sign at Brest-Litovsk left the determination of the future destiny of the people of the provinces of Ardagan, Kars and Batum to the people themselves, but recent events testify to the renewal of the old policy, and the annihilation of the Armenian people.

The responsibility for all the horrors which the Armenian population is now suffering in the regions already occupied by the Turkish troops lies with the German Government, which directly helped Turkey to secure these regions. The Government insist upon the immediate energetic intervention of Germany in the Caucasus in stopping further murders and annihilation.



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## THE WAR.

(Continued from page 5.)

General.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

THE IRISH CONVENTION'S  
REPORT.CHAIRMAN'S ANALYSIS OF  
PROCEEDINGS.

LONDON, April 11th.

The Irish Convention report is issued. The Majority favoured a constitution consisting of a Senate with 64 members and a House of Commons of 200. The Nationalists guaranteeing the Unionists a 40 per cent. membership, the Commons to be appointed by nomination if necessary. The Ulsterites have rejected nomination as regards Ulster. The Convention is split on the fiscal issue. The Ulsterites and Southern Unionists insisted that full control of finance be left with the Imperial Parliament. The Ulster Minority report demands the exclusion of the entire province from Home Rule.

The Irish Convention has issued a covering letter by the Chairman, Sir Horace Plunkett, to Mr. Lloyd George, which summarises the main points. He says that while it was found impossible to overcome the objections of the Ulster Unionists, the following parties were agreed that the scheme of self-government should be passed, namely, by a majority of Nationalists, all Southern Unionists and five out of seven Labourites. The Minority Nationalist scheme differed only in one particular from the Majority, and therefore the Convention had laid the foundation of an Irish agreement unprecedented in history.

Sir Horace proceeds:—The Convention explored every possibility of agreement, and after eight months decided to issue a report which should be a mere narrative of the Convention's proceedings. This report was adopted by the Majority, but there was no Majority report in the sense of a reasoned statement in favour of conclusions in which the majority agreed. However, the Ulster Unionists and Minority Nationalists presented a minority report the result of which was to minimise the agreement reached and emphasise disagreement.

There were, he continues, two possible issues to the deliberations. If a scheme of self-government could be framed to which Ulster Unionists would give adherence, then the Convention might produce a unanimous report; failing this it was felt that the Convention might secure a substantial agreement, either complete or substantial, between the Nationalists, Southern Unionists and Labourites. However, a portion of Ulster claimed that if Ireland had a right to separate itself from the United Kingdom, Ulster had a right to separate from the rest of Ireland, but no other section of the Convention would accept even temporary partition.

Hence Ulster Unionists members of the Convention remained there only in the hope that some form of Home Rule would be proposed which might modify the determination of those they represented to have neither part nor lot in an Irish Parliament. The Nationalists strove to win them by concessions, but they found themselves unable to accept any of the schemes discussed and they presented to the Convention was confined to the exclusion of their entire province. The two great difficulties were Ulster and the Customs. The latter became a vital question.

Sir Horace Plunkett continues to say that the tendency of recent political thought among the Constitutional Nationalists has been towards a form of Government resembling as closely as possible that of the Dominions, and since the geographical position of Ireland imposes obvious restrictions in respect to naval and military affairs, the claim for Dominion Home Rule was bolstered upon a demand for unrestricted fiscal powers. Without separate Customs and Excise Ireland would, according to this view, fail to attain national status like the Dominions.

Upon this issue the Nationalists made strong cases. They proved that a considerable number of leading commercial men now favoured fiscal autonomy as a part of the Irish settlement. In the present state of public opinion in Ireland it was feared that without Customs no scheme, the Convention recommended would receive sufficient popular support. To obviate any serious disturbance of the trade of the United Kingdom they were prepared to agree to a Free Trade arrangement between the two countries, but this did not overcome the difficulties of the Southern Unionists who agreed with the Ulster Unionists on this point.

They were apprehensive that a separate system of Customs control, however guarded, might impair the authority of the United Kingdom over its external trade policy. Neither could they consent to any settlement which was in their judgment incompatible with Ireland's full participation in the scheme of the United Kingdom Federation, should that come to pass. Sir Horace Plunkett proceeds to refer to a series of resolutions passed regarding self-government.

LATER.

The scheme provides for the establishment of a Parliament for the whole of Ireland with a responsible Executive and with full powers over all internal legislation, administration, and direct taxation. Pending a decision on the fiscal question it was provided that the imposition of Customs and Excise duties should remain with the Imperial Parliament, but that the whole proceeds of these duties should be paid into the Irish exchequer. An Irish Exchequer Board should be appointed to determine Ireland's true revenue, and Ireland should be represented upon the Board of Customs and Excise of the United Kingdom.

The principle of representation in the Imperial Parliament was insisted upon by the Southern Unionists and the Nationalists conceded it. It was felt, however, that there were strong reasons

for providing that the Irish representatives at Westminster should be elected by the Irish Parliament rather than directly by the constituencies. This was adopted.

It was accepted, in principle, that Ireland should contribute to the cost of the Imperial services, but, owing to lack of data, it was impossible to find a definite sum.

It was agreed that the Irish Parliament should consist of a Senate of 64 members, and a House of Commons of 200 members. The principle underlying the composition of the Senate is representation of interests, namely, Commerce, Industry and Labour, the County Councils, Churches, Learned Institutions, and Peasants.

The Nationalists offered to guarantee forty per cent. of the membership of the Commons to the Unionists. It was agreed that in the south adequate representations for Unionists could only be secured by nomination; but, as the Ulster representatives informed the Convention that those for whom they spoke could not accept the principle of nomination, provision was made in the scheme for the extra representation of Ulster by direct election.

A majority of Labourites associated themselves with the Nationalists and Southern Unionists in building up the Constitution with provisions of which they found themselves in general agreement. They frankly objected, however, to the principle of nomination and to what they regarded as the inadequate representation of labour in the Senate.

Sir Horace Plunkett concludes:—While, technically, it was our function to draft a Constitution for the country it would be more correct to say that we had to find a way out of the most complex and anomalous political situation in history—one might almost say in fiction. We are living under a system of government which survives only because the Act abolishing it cannot, consistently, with Ministerial pledges, be put into operation without further legislation no less difficult and controversial than that which it has to amend. While the responsibility for the solution of our problem rests primarily with the Government, the Convention found itself in full accord with your insistence that the most hopeful path to a settlement was in an Irish agreement. In attempting to find a compromise which Ireland might accept and Parliament pass into law, it has been recognised that the full programme of no party could be adopted.

The Convention was also bound to give due weight to your opinion as to the pressure for a settlement at Westminster, during the war, of the financial question would be to imperil the prospect of the early establishment of self-government. Notwithstanding the difficulties with which we are surrounded, a larger measure of agreement has been reached upon the principle and details of Irish self-government than has ever yet been attained.

## CONVERSATION WITH CHAIRMAN.

LONDON, April 12th.

In the course of a conversation with the Pressmen, Sir Horace Plunkett said that the most he had hoped for was a substantial agreement, not unanimity. The Convention had abolished the Irish question outside Ulster, and later the situation would be so changed that it would be much easier to negotiate with Ulster. The Convention had not been dissolved, but only adjourned sine die. The partition of Ireland would be no settlement. Better wait than start Home Rule with partition. The strength of the Ulster opposition lay mainly on religious grounds. The various constitutions of the Dominions were discussed, but the circumstances in Ireland were peculiar. For example, 95 per cent. of Ireland's business was done through England.

## STATEMENT BY ULSTER COUNCIL.

LONDON, April 13th.

A statement by the Ulster Council, issued last evening, says that the unheard-of demands submitted at the Convention could only tend to ultimate separation.

It declares that Sinn Féin victories at by-elections prove that the Nationalist vote is controlled by traitors. "We are asked to hand over the country at a time of grave crisis to a system that, unless it is restrained by military force, will reduce it to the condition of revolutionary Russia."

The statement concludes:—Ireland is now the most prosperous part of the United Kingdom, and it is bound in duty and honour to contribute her share to the cost incurred.

## REFORM OF HOUSE OF LORDS

LONDON, April 12th.

The *Manchester Guardian* understands that the House of Lords Reform Commission had approved of the proposals whereby the Second Chamber should consist of three sections, respectively nominated by the Peers, the Commons and the County Councils, and also an elected section.

AMERICA AND THE WAR.  
REMARKABLE REPUBLICAN  
RESOLUTION.

ALBANY, April 13th.

Mr. Taft, addressing the New York State Legislature, advocated that the United States should, as soon as possible, put an Army of five or seven millions into the British and French lines. This would probably take two years, but, when accomplished, victory should be won. The Americans should occupy the centre and bear the brunt of the battle as they ought to, for, after all, the Allies had been fighting America's battles for the past three years.

The Legislature passed a resolution in favour of the United States joining after the war a League of Nations to safeguard the peace that must be won by the joint Allied military forces.

The speech and the resolution are significant as showing the strong Republican sentiment for a vigorous prosecution of the war.

THE MAN-POWER BILL.  
PROGRESS IN THE COMMONS.

MR. ASQUITH'S ATTITUDE.

LONDON, April 12th.

In the House of Commons, in the course of the Irish discussion, Mr. Asquith, explaining why he did not ask his followers to vote against compulsion in Ireland, said the situation was far graver than when he last spoke in the House. He could not be a party to any proceeding in the House which, if successful, must prevent the Government from concentrating entirely upon saving from disaster the cause of the Allies. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. Asquith suggested that in the interval between the passing of the Bill and the application of compulsion in Ireland, the Bill, based on the report of the Irish Convention, should be passed by both Houses.

## IRISH SECRETARY'S CONVICTIONS.

Mr. H. E. Duke (Secretary for Ireland) said nothing would please the Government better than that Parliament should be erected at Dublin before any Irishmen went to the Colours. He hoped that when Irishmen saw the Government resolved to settle the Irish question, and that it is open to them honorably and as citizens to participate in the defence of the Empire, they would again rally to the sacred cause as in 1914.

## MR. DEVLIN'S OFFER.

Mr. Devlin declared that the action of the Government was fraught with the greatest peril, and he urged the withdrawal of the Irish clause at the earliest moment. If the Government introduced a broad measure of self-government satisfying the Irish national aspirations and called at the earliest opportunity a Parliament representing Irish citizenship, the Government would get from Ireland what it got from South Africa. If the Government did this, he would join the Colours as a private, would constitute himself a leader, and would do his utmost to rally young Irishmen to the Government's support. This was a time of bitter trial. (Loud Nationalist cheers.)

## APPEAL TO SIR E. CARSON.

It was reported that Sir Mark Sykes, in a speech which was received warmly in every part of the House, pointed out that as the Government had decided to stand or fall on the question of Irish conscription, it was the duty of members to support the Government, but the Government must bring in a Home Rule Bill of an adequate character. He appealed to Sir Edward Carson to say that if the Irish nation is in the war, Ulster is in the Irish nation. Sinn Féin would then be dead, and a wave of enthusiasm would sweep an Irish Army far beyond the hopes of the Government.

Mr. Hugh Law, Nationalist, paid a warm tribute to the speech of Sir Mark Sykes as showing a brave, courageous and noble spirit.

GOVERNMENT DOING NOTHING  
UNJUST.

Mr. Bonar Law claimed that the Government was doing nothing unjust. The Government decided that from a military point of view, which alone could be considered, there was an advantage in their course and they would be overruled if they failed to carry it out. The American Government's response to our urgent appeal to allow its battalions to be brigaded with ours was conscription of Americans many of whom were Irish. Were we entitled to urge the United States to conscript Irishmen when Irishmen at home were not called up? The Home Rule Bill was in preparation and the Government would try to carry it simultaneously with the Man Power Bill.

COMPULSION FOR IRELAND  
CARRIED.

The Nationalist amendment was then rejected, and the clause applying compulsion to Ireland was adopted by 291 votes to 115.

## AGE-LIMIT CLAUSE PASSED.

In Committee the first clause of the Man-Power Bill authorising the general raising of the age was carried by a large majority. The Government undertook not to take action as regards those who are liable over 50, without Parliament's consent.

## LENIENCY TOWARDS EXEMPTS.

In the House of Commons, April 13th, the Military Service Bill, Sir G. Cave K.C., announced that the Government would not press for power to cancel exemptions received on medical grounds or on the ground of conscientious objections.

In commenting on the Irish situation, the *Daily News* and the *Daily Chronicle* deplore the Government's attitude towards conscription.

The *Morning Post* states the nation is asked to betray Ulster to placate Sinn Féin.

The *Daily Telegraph* and the *Times* emphasise the responsibility of the Government to find a settlement in fulfilment of the Premier's pledge of February 25th. The former says it is futile to conceal the Convention's failure, though in some developments of opinion it at least pointed the way to a brighter future.

The *Times* states the Convention revealed the existence of a nucleus of moderate opinion prepared to work for concrete settlement.

The *Times* Lobby correspondent says the atmosphere in the House of Commons yesterday was more promising than at any time since the Government proposals were announced. The new German drive has sobered the Nationalists. The Government is undoubtedly assured of general sympathy and goodwill in its attempt to effect a solution.

CONFIDENCE IN ITALIAN  
ARMY.

ROME, April 13th.

Signor Orlando (the Premier), after visiting the Front, has telegraphed to General Diaz. He wished that the confidence that his visit had inspired in him should spread throughout Italy and the Army, which was never more worthy, than in the present hour of the supreme crisis. "The enemy's blow, when it falls, will find us ready."

## GUN WITH 80-MILE RANGE!

LONDON, April 12th.

Mr. Macpherson stated in the House of Commons that it was possible to construct a gun firing over 80 miles. The necessary steps have been taken in this connection.

## BELGIUM'S FUTURE.

GERMAN ANNEXATION  
ADVOCATED.

AMSTERDAM, April 12th.

General Keim, for three years Military Governor of the Belgian Province of Limburg, in a speech at Berlin, characterised the restoration and indemnification of Belgium as monstrous. Belgium had only been treated according to the laws of war. Military, economic and political guarantees in Belgium were impossible. "The annexation of the Flanders coast with the necessary hinterland and the conclusion of a German peace with indemnities are indispensable."

## BREAD RIOTS IN HOLLAND.

AMSTERDAM, April 13th.

There were collisions between the mob, the police and the Military during the bread riots at The Hague, where a crowd pillaged the shops.

Several casualties were reported. There was also rioting at Rotterdam.

COMPULSORY CIVILIAN  
SERVICE IN HOLLAND.

THE HAGUE, April 13th.

The Government has introduced a Bill establishing compulsory civilian service stringing abnormal conditions for Dutchmen, and unmarried and childless Dutchwomen in the mother-country between the ages of 17 and 60.

## Aerial Activities.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

## AIR-RAID ON ENGLAND.

MIDLAND DISTRICTS VISITED.

LONDON, April 13th.

The Press Bureau announces:—Hostile airships crossed the East Coast last evening and attacked certain Eastern and Midlands districts. One or two raiders penetrated further inland, where some bombs were dropped. Details are not available. The raid is progressing.

## ACCOUNT OF THE RAID.

LATER.

The Press Bureau announces:—Four airships participated in last night's raid. Two penetrated a few miles inland, while another reached the Midlands. The fourth nearly reached the North-West coast. The raiders travelled at a great height, but did not attempt to penetrate the defended areas. Most of the bombs were dropped on open country. Four houses were demolished in one place. Otherwise, the damage was inconsiderable.

## ONLY TWO ZEPPELINS.

LONDON, April 13th.

It is unofficially stated that two Zeppelins raided the East Coast of England last evening.

## CASUALTIES.

LONDON, April 13th.

The Press Bureau announce that five persons were killed and fifteen injured in last night's raid.

## AIR-RAID ON PARIS.

11 KILLED AND 50 WOUNDED.

PARIS, April 9th.

German aeroplanes crossed the lines and proceeded southwards. Only two reached Paris and dropped some bombs. The casualties are still unknown. In last night's air-raid 11 were killed and 50 wounded.

LATER.

The alarm was given at 10 o'clock in the evening and the "All Clear" signal at 11.

## OFFICIAL CASUALTY FIGURES.

PARIS, April 13th.

An official statement gives the latest figures in last night's air-raid on Paris as 25 killed and 72 injured.

## CHIEF OF AIR STAFF.

LONDON, April 13th.

The Press Bureau announces that Major-General F. H. Sykes has been appointed Chief of the Air Staff, on the resignation of Major-General Trenchard.

## Naval Activities.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

## GERMAN BATTLESHIP'S FATE

COPENHAGEN, April 13th.

The *Social Demokrat* states that the German battleship *Rheinland* is aground off the Aaland Islands. Another source reports that the *Rheinland* struck a mine and sank.

## "ASAHI BEER."



DAI NIPPON BREWERY TOKYO CO.

SOLE AGENTS  
MITSU BUSSAN KAISHA,  
TEL. NO. 230 & 155.

## CUTLER PALMER &amp; CO.'S

NAPIER JOHNSTONES  
SQUARE  
BOTTLE WHISKY.SOLE AGENTS IN HONGKONG  
AND SOUTH CHINA:  
LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.,  
and from ALL WINE MERCHANTS.

These tiny Capsules—superior  
to Copiba, Cubebs, and Injections—  
cure the same diseases as these drugs in  
FORTY-EIGHT HOURS  
without inconvenience.  
Each Capsule bears the name.  
Paris, 8, rue Vivienne  
Sole by all Chemists.

THE NEW FRENCH REMEDY  
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## Franco-Belgian front.

[REUTERS' TELETYPE.]

## BRITISH FRONT.

## COUNTER-ATTACKS RECOVER POSITIONS.

LONDON, April 15th.  
11.10 a.m.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—The enemy pressed attacks strongly all day long on the whole of the northern battle front.

Fresh divisions are continually heavily assaulting in the region of the Lys river, between Lohans and Estreux.

Our Fifty-First Division beat off incessant attacks, inflicting great losses, and recaptured positions by vigorous counter-attacks.

There is heavy fighting at Estaires and between Estaires and Steenwerck. In this sector the enemy attacked in strength and pushed back our line to just north of these places.

The enemy determinedly attacked this morning north of Armentieres and made some progress in the neighbourhood of Ploegsteert Wood.

Our Ninth Division completely repulsed, with great loss, another heavy attack in the neighbourhood of Wytschaete and Holbeke.

Fighting continues along the whole front between La Bassée Canal and the Ypres-Comines Canal.

LONDON, April 15th.  
11.45 p.m.

Despite the unfavourable weather yesterday, our airmen bombed and machine-gunned enemy troops.

The mist compelled the airmen to fly at the average height of 90 feet, experiencing very heavy gunfire.

Enemy airmen were also active.

We brought down seven and drove down one. Seven of our machines are missing.

We raided Luxembourg station to-day and dropped over a ton of bombs. Several bursts were observed.

All our machines returned, despite considerable gunfire.

## WITHDRAWAL FROM ARMENTIERES.

LONDON, April 15th.  
2.10 p.m.

The battle is continuing on the whole front from La Bassée Canal to the Ypres-Comines Canal.

Severe fighting occurred in the neighbourhood of the Lys and Lys Canals, from about Lestrem to Armentieres. We have withdrawn from Armentieres, which is full of gas.

The situation is a little changed.

North of Armentieres heavy fighting continued up to a late hour last night in the neighbourhoods of Ploegsteert, Messines and Wytschaete.

## SITUATION FAIRLY WELL IN HAND.

LONDON, April 15th.  
9.35 p.m.

Reuter's Correspondent telegraphing this evening, states:—The situation in Flanders is generally regarded to-day as being fairly well in hand, but fighting continues on a heavy scale and is likely to continue. What success the Germans have achieved has developed out of an advance in the centre of the original front. The attack was helped by misty weather. The territory which the enemy has overrun was very sparsely populated by civilians, and, as regards the character of the country, it is a barren gain. Moreover, the enemy communications have lengthened across long tracts of clay.

The weather improved in the morning, airmen effectively co-operating in large numbers.

At ten o'clock in the morning the enemy furiously attacked against Holbeke, and fighting of great intensity followed.

Massed waves of the enemy advanced over heavy ground flanking Roozbeek, making a great target for our riflemen and machine-guns. The execution is described as being terrible. Comparatively few of the enemy got to grips with the defenders. Eventually the attack was completely repulsed, the straggling retreat being followed by field-guns until the enemy disappeared in the mist.

Around Ploegsteert Wood and Estaires there has been continual fighting. The results are at present not known. The enemy brought up more reserves and we also have thrown in reinforcements.

North-west of Armentieres and in the direction of Ploegsteert large bodies of German infantry are reported by airmen to be massing. Artillery was heavily concentrated there.

The evacuation of Armentieres was carried out very successfully, the enemy not attempting to press our retirement. The whole place is a vast cesspit of mustard gas and the soldiers have had a welcome release from it.

## GERMAN REPORT.

LONDON, April 15th.  
11.30 p.m.

A German wireless official message states:—Between Armentieres and Festubert we stormed Bois Grenier and Neuve Chapelle. We crossed the Lys at Bac St. Maur and captured Holbeke. Yesterday we stormed the Messines heights and pushed forward as far as Ploegsteert Wood. We reached the Ploegsteert and Armentieres road.

We reached Lys and the region north-east of Bethune.

The prisoners captured now number over 10,000, including a Portuguese General.

## FRENCH FRONT.

## TWO HEAVY ENEMY ATTACKS REPULSED.

PARIS, April 15th.  
A communiqué states:—There is a violent artillery duel at certain points north of Montdidier and in the region of Lassigny.

We repulsed last night and this morning two somewhat heavy attacks in the sector of Noyon.

There is an intermittent cannonade on both banks of the Meuse.

During March 28th enemy aeroplanes were brought down by anti-aircraft defences.

## THE BOMBARDMENT OF PARIS.

PARIS, April 15th.  
The long-range gun bombardment yesterday hit a *criche*, killing four and injuring 21.

## VARIOUS ACTIVITIES.

LONDON, April 15th.  
10.05 p.m.

Reuter's Correspondent at French Headquarters telegraphing yesterday, says:—Relative quiet is prevailing from Hangard to Noyon. The French carried out a small infantry attack on Grivesnes Chateau, locally improving their position in the park. Guns are active on both sides all along the front. Along the whole front the Germans have done little trench digging.

Enemy airmen are more active, but are showing little inclination to take the offensive, chiefly patrolling their own side of the front in powerful groups of a dozen or more machines with the object of preventing our flights.

## General.

[REUTERS' TELETYPE.]

## NATION'S UNPRECEDENTED ANXIETY.

LONDON, April 15th.

The nation is watching with an anxiety unprecedented in the war the progress of the critical battle in northern France. The anxiety is mingled with admiration for the tenacity of the British troops, who are contesting every foot of ground with a stubbornness that has made the enemy pay dearly for his slow advance. As the struggle has swung on the 30 mile front, observers here and in Paris are divided in their opinion of the enemy's intentions, one section regarding the new offensive as a diversion meant to draw off British reserves while preparing for a fresh attack at Amiens. The other section believes that it is a definite and systematic attempt to destroy the British Army and break through to Calais while holding the French in the south. The consensus of opinion now favours the latter theory.

It is indeed obvious that the enemy, backed by unlimited artillery, is doing what is hitherto unprecedented in war, namely, conducting two first-class offensives simultaneously, or at least, launching the second before he has had time to draw away from the first. The prospect is grim for the British, but the accounts of the fighting continue to breathe confidence that the British, however prolonged the struggle, will not yield to the enemy in what is more clearly becoming a test of endurance. The key-points of the battle are the ridge of Messines and Passchendaele, which the Germans are endeavouring both to outflank and carry by direct assault. There has been no evidence hitherto that the enemy has gained control of a single bit of rising ground.

Stories of correspondents do not confirm the enemy official claim of the capture of Messines Ridge. This claim is probably a euphemism for securing a lodgement on the eastern slopes, as correspondents are unanimous in declaring that fierce British counter-attacks flung back the enemy from the ridge with the bloodiest losses, while farther south, where the enemy was dangerously pushing in the direction of Bailleul, the splendid resistance of the British confined the advance of the Germans to a continually contracting front. Here enemy corpses were heaped in the river. Lys as the British machine-guns moved down the oncoming waves at point-blank range. Yet fresh waves advanced as though reserves were inexhaustible. The Germans poured gas-shells into towns like Bethune crowded with civilians, and many women and children were passed into British hospitals. Though the Germans have hitherto shown no sign of a fresh effort on the Somme and Amiens battle-front the mass of their forces is still between Arras and Noyon. Hence, if the British in the north arrest the onslaught, a fresh stroke will undoubtedly be tried against the Amiens salient, where the enemy has the bulk of his reserves which cannot easily be extracted.

The German papers, commenting on the battle, claim that the new offensive has compelled General Foch to weaken his forces by shifting the reserves. They assure their readers to have patience, because the strategy of the supreme command is still unrevealed.

## ENEMY TREATMENT OF PRISONERS.

## GERMAN BRUTALITY AND DECEPTION.

LONDON, April 15th.

The report of the Committee, presided over by Mr. Justice Younger, on enemy treatment of British war prisoners on the Western Front, constitutes another tragic record of German brutality, systematically compelled to engage in work forbidden by the laws of war, close behind the firing line, thereby deliberately exposed to enemy and Allied gunfire. These inhuman conditions continued after the Anglo-German agreement of last year, whereby no prisoners of war should be employed in any way within 30 kilometres of the firing line. An instance is quoted where one Allied shell killed seven and wounded four prisoners of war from Belgium.

The report furnishes appalling evidence concerning the systematic starvation of prisoners. A case is quoted where a party appealed to the sentry for permission to pick stinging nettles and dandelions to reduce the pangs of hunger. Dirty potato peelings were picked up and a starving Australian was shot for attempting to pick up a piece of bread which women left by the roadside for prisoners. They rarely received food parcels from their friends. Owing to the Germans unofficially acknowledging the existence of prisoners in occupied territory, their existence is often unnoticed. But if they are permitted to write they are compelled to date letters from false addresses. Several thousand parcels are known to have been undelivered, notably in the case of a party of 77 Newfoundlanders. Their miseries are intensified by the inadequacy of accommodation and the inadequate supply of clothing. In one case men were compelled to sleep in a roofless barn where the rain poured in, but were compelled to resume work in their soaked garments. Another instance is of 110 being accommodated in an unheated feet on bare boards without blankets. When utterly worn out the prisoners were sent from the lines to the German prison camps in a ragged and verminous condition, half-savage with hunger and bad treatment. The report shows the cause of a number of deaths which the German Government admitted plainly to be attributable to starvation and the awful conditions to which the prisoners were subjected.

## THE ALLIED GENERALISSIMO

LONDON, April 15th.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Bonar Law, replying to a question as to the position of General Foch, said that the Versailles Council, which had so far been working out the plans and details concerned, was still going on. General Foch who was Chairman of the Council, had necessarily taken on other work. He was appointed with the full approval, not merely of the Governments, but of the Generals concerned, to direct the strategy of both armies, exercising powers of a Generalissimo and directing the strategy of the present battle.

Mr. Bonar Law did not think that there was a man inside or outside of the House who was not thankful for this.

## GREAT BRITAIN'S MAN-POWER BILL.

## ANOTHER AMENDMENT DEFEATED.

LONDON, April 15th.

The House of Commons, sitting in Committee on the Man-Power Bill, considered an amendment substituting the age limit to 48 years instead of 50. The amendment was defeated by 202 to 152.

THE PROGRESS OF THE BILL. The House of Commons adopted the "Guillotine" resolution regarding the Man-Power Bill, which will leave the House of Commons on Tuesday, and pass through all its stages in the House of Lords by Thursday.

## EFFECT OF AGE LIMIT.

LONDON, April 15th.

In the House of Commons, Sir Auckland Geddes intimated that only seven per cent. of the men affected by the raising of the age limit would be required this year. The remaining 93 per cent. would remain in civil life. If three or four years were cut off the age limit the same number of men would be taken from a smaller block and be less fit physically on average grounds.

Sir Charles Soely stated that the young miners in the Nottingham area had not selected service by ballot, but were recruiting voluntarily.

## A PATRIOTIC SUGGESTION.

The Dublin Unionist journal, the *Irish Times*, invites Mr. Dillon to make a bargain with the Government, and suggests that six weeks before conscription is in working order the Nationalists should undertake to raise seven divisions voluntarily.

## NATIONALIST PROTEST.

The Nationalist candidate, Mr. Dooley, at the request of his supporters, has decided as a protest against conscription not to contest North King's County against the Sinn Féin candidate. The polling for which had been fixed for April 25th.

Mr. Dillon, the Nationalist leader, telegraphed advising the abandonment of the contest.

## THE NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT.

ST. JOHN'S (Newfoundland), April 15th.

The Legislative Council will meet on April 23rd to consider measures to maintain the strength of the Newfoundland Regiment.

An Order-in-Council has been issued forbidding the departure from the Colony of all eligible unmarried men.

## BRITISH MUNITIONS.

LONDON, April 15th.

Mr. F. G. Kellaway, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Munitions, outlined, at Bedford, the progress of the production of munitions. The increase in the first two months of 1918 as compared with last year was as follows:—Light guns, 30 per cent.; medium guns, 57 per cent.; heavy guns, 38 per cent.; machine-guns, 98 per cent.; aeroplanes, 223 per cent.; and aero-engines, 245 per cent.

The average weekly production of aeroplanes in 1918 equalled the average production for two months of 1917. Simultaneously men were being steadily released for the army. Over 300,000 men were released during 1917. The army was as well equipped to-day as when the German offensive began. All the guns lost had been replaced. We were actually stronger in machine-guns than at the beginning of the battle. Aeroplanes, we were as strong, if not stronger. The lost tanks were being replaced by a superior model, whilst the ammunition had been more than made good.

## THE CZERNIN "LIE."

## THE CONTROVERSY DEVELOPING.

LONDON, April 15th.

The controversy between the French Premier, M. Clemenceau, and the Austrian Emperor is developing into a most important one.

## AUSTRIAN EMPEROR'S DENIAL.

The official Vienna statement, which was mentioned last night by Reuter's Correspondent at Amsterdam, was a telegram which the Emperor Karl sent to the Kaiser yesterday, in which he says, *inter alia*:—I disavow most indignantly M. Clemenceau's false and untrue statement that I recognised that France had a just claim to the re-acquisition of Alsace and Lorraine. At a moment when Austro-Hungarian guns are thundering valiantly with German cannon on the Western Front it hardly needs proof that I am fighting for these provinces exactly as if it were a question of my own lands. In face of this eloquent proof of our full community of aims I deem it superfluous to waste words on M. Clemenceau's false assertion. Nevertheless, I desire to take this opportunity of assuring you of the complete solidarity existing between you and me, your Empire and mine. No intrigues and no attempts, no matter from whom they proceed, will imperil our loyal comradeship of arms, and we shall jointly enforce an honourable peace."

## TEXT OF EMPEROR KARL'S LETTER.

A Paris official message says that a Note was issued last night as a reply to the foregoing. The Note says that Emperor Karl compels the French Government to give prompt reply. The Note reproduces the text of a long letter communicated on March 31st, 1917, by Prince Sixte de Bourbon, brother-in-law of Emperor Karl, to President Poincaré, who, with the Prince's assent, forwarded it immediately to the French Premier. The following are the chief passages:

"My Dear Sixte.—At the end of the third year of war, which has brought so much mourning and pain into the world, none can dispute the military advantages won by my troops, especially in the Balkans. France on her side has shown magnificent power of resistance and élan. We unreservedly admire the bravery of her army and the spirit of sacrifice of the whole French people. It is particularly agreeable to me that, though momentarily opponents, no real divergence of views or aspirations separates my Empire from France. I am justified in hoping that my lively sympathies for France, joined by those of the prevalent monarchy, will forever prevent a return to a state of war, for which no responsibility can be assigned to this end, and to show the reality of these sentiments I beg you to convey secretly and unofficially to President Poincaré that I shall support by every means, using all my personal influence with my Allies, France's just claims regarding Alsace-Lorraine. Further, Belgium should be entirely re-established in her sovereignty, keeping the whole of her African possessions, without prejudice as compensation for her loss. Serbia shall be re-established in her sovereignty. We are ready to assure her equitable and natural access to the Adriatic, besides extensive economic concessions, but Austria-Hungary will demand assurances, guaranteed by the Entente Powers, that Serbia will suppress any political society tending towards the disintegration of Austria-Hungary. Events in Russia compel me to reserve my ideas concerning her until a legal and definitive Government is established there. I ask you to ascertain the opinion, firstly, of France and England, with a view to preparing the ground of the Entente for the opening of official negotiations. Hoping we thus will be able on both sides to soon terminate the sufferings of so many millions, I beg you to believe me, with very lively fraternal affection, KARL."

## PREMIER IN DISFAVOUR.

AMSTERDAM, April 15th.

A message from Vienna states that a monster Czech demonstration against Count Czernin is being organised at Prague.

The Premier has had an audience with the Emperor in connection with the matter.

## HURRIED RETURN TO VIENNA.

LATER.

Count Czernin has hurriedly returned to Vienna from Bucharest.

## GERMANY'S FAITHFUL ALLY.

An official statement declares that M. Clemenceau's assertion as regards the Emperor's Alsace-Lorraine letter is a bare invention. The fact that Austro-Hungarian troops are fighting on the Western Front and are in possession of Alsace-Lorraine proves beyond doubt the Emperor's faithfulness as an ally.

## AMERICA AND THE WAR.

## COASTAL LINES TAKEN OVER.

WASHINGTON, April 15th.

President Wilson has issued a Proclamation directing the taking over of all coastwise shipping lines, by noon on April 15th, by the Railroad Administration, for operation during the period of the war.

The Proclamation says that they will be devoted mainly to the transportation of troops and war materials.

## THE SIAMSESE MILITARY MISSION.

PARIS, April 15th.

The Siamese Minister presented the members of the Siamese Military Mission to President Poincaré, who congratulated them upon their work.

## THE SOCIETY OF ST. GEORGE, HONGKONG.



## "THE WITNESS FOR THE DEFENCE."

THEATRE ROYAL,

APRIL 23rd, at 8 p.m.

## AUCTION

OF SEATS IN DRESS CIRCLE

BY

H. P. WHITE, Esq.,

TUESDAY, APRIL 16TH,

AT NOON,

HONGKONG HOTEL SMOKING ROOM.

Members of the Society are requested to attend.

PROCEEDS FOR WAR CHARITIES.

JOHN BENTLEY,

Hon. Secretary.

[1084]

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OPERATING THE NEW FIRST-CLASS STEAMERS  
"ECUADOR," "VENEZUELA" AND "COLOMBIA,"  
14,000 tons each.

HONGKONG TO SAN FRANCISCO,  
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SS. "VENEZUELA" ... Apr. 24th.  
SS. "ECUADOR" ... May 2nd.  
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The Safety and Comfort of Passengers is our first consideration. Special care is given to the Cuisine, and the attendance on passengers cannot be surpassed.

Tickets are interchangeable with the TOYO KISEN KAISEN and the CANADIAN PACIFIC OCEAN SERVICES LTD.  
For further information, rates, literature, schedules, etc., apply to  
COMPANY'S OFFICE in Alexander Buildings, Chater Road  
Telephone 141.

## THE SIBERIAN SITUATION.

## THE VLADIVOSTOCK DISORDER.

LONDON, April 15th.

In the House of Commons, Lord Robert Cecil stated that owing to murders of Japanese at Vladivostok by bands of robbers, British and Japanese warships at Vladivostok had landed parties to protect the British Consulate and Japanese subjects. The Government had no reason to think that the American Government disapproved of the action, which was of purely local significance.

## RUSSIAN AFFAIRS.

## THE BALTIC FLEET ARRIVES AT KRONSTADT.

PETROGRAD, April 15th.

The First Squadron of the Russian Baltic Fleet, composed of battleships and cruisers, has arrived at Kronstadt from Helsingfors.

The Second Squadron, comprising torpedo-boats and submarines, is reported off Kronstadt.

The Third Squadron of transports, armed merchantmen and obsolete torpedo-boats left Helsingfors last night. The total number of vessels departed is 200.

## THE SILVER MARKET.

LONDON, April 15th.

The silver market is quiet.

## HONGKONG TIDE TABLE.

From 15th to 21st April, 1918.

Day of Month	High Water	Low Water	Day of Month	High Water	Low Water
	H'gong Mean Time	L'gong Mean Time		H'gong Mean Time	L'gong Mean Time
Mon.	16 m 0.54	4 m 0.54	16 m 0.54	4 m 0.54	3 m 3.5
Tues.	16 m 11.21	4 m 11.21	16 m 11.21	4 m 11.21	3 m 4.2
Wed.	16 m 2.3	4 m 2.3	16 m 2.3	4 m 2.3	3 m 4.9
Thurs.	16 m 3.49	4 m 3.49	16 m 3.49	4 m 3.49	3 m 5.6
Fri.	16 m 4.6	4 m 4.6	16 m 4.6	4 m 4.6	3 m 6.3
Satur.	16 m 5.7	4 m 5.7	16 m 5.7	4 m 5.7	3 m 7.0
Sun.	16 m 6.8	4 m 6.8	16 m 6.8	4 m 6.8	3 m 7.7

## ON SALE.

A TABLE OF THE  
RATES OF EXCHANGE AT BOMBAY  
For Demand Drafts on London on the day  
of or preceding the departure of the  
English Mail; also Table of the  
Yearly Approximate Average  
for 50 years.  
PRICE ..... 25 CENTS.  
On Sale at the Daily Press Office and  
Local Bookstall.







## INDIAN AFRICAN LINE.

Cargo carried on through Bills of Lading from HONGKONG to BEIRA, DELAGOA BAY, DURBAN (Retail), EAST LONDON, PORT ELIZABETH and CAPE TOWN with transshipment at COLOMBO to Steamers of the INDIAN AFRICAN LINE.

## ORIENTAL AFRICAN LINE.

Regular Direct Service from JAPAN, CHINA and STRAITS to BEIRA, DELAGOA BAY, DURBAN, EAST LONDON, PORT ELIZABETH and CAPE TOWN, calling at MAURITIUS en route, and affording the Quickest Freight Transport from the ORIENT to SOUTHERN AFRICA.

For particulars of sailings shippers are requested to apply to the undersigned.

THE BANK LINE LIMITED,  
Managing Agents.

## "ELJERMAN" LINE.

(KLEPPNER & BUCKHALL STEAMSHIP CO., LTD.)

JAPAN, CHINA AND STRAITS

UNITED KINGDOM AND CONTINENT.

Steamers proceed via Suez Canal or Cape of Good Hope at Owners' option.  
Subject to change without notice.

For particulars of sailings shippers are requested to apply to the undersigned.

THE BANK LINE LIMITED,  
General Agents.

C. N. C.  
CHINA NAVIGATION CO., LTD.

SAILINGS SUBJECT TO ALTERATION.

FOR STEAMERS TO SAIL

AMOY and SHANGHAI "SUNNING" On 16th Apr., 10 A.M.  
WEIHAIWEI and CHEFOO "FENGTIEN" On 16th Apr., Noon.  
TIENTSIN "KUEICHOW" On 16th Apr., Noon.  
SHANGHAI "TINGCHOW" On 20th Apr., 3 P.M.

SHANGHAI LINE-PASSENGERS, MAILS and CARGO.  
Excellent Saloon accommodation, Ample Electric Light and Fans in Saloon and State-rooms. Regular schedule service between Canton, Hongkong and Shanghai, taking Cargo on through Bills of Lading to all Yangtze and Northern China Ports. Passengers are landed in Shanghai, avoiding the inconvenience of transshipment at Woosung.

For Freight or Passage apply to—

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE.

Telephone 36

Agents

## DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP CO., LTD.

HONGKONG AND SOUTH CHINA COAST PORT SERVICE.

REGULAR SERVICE of Fast, High Class Coast Steamers having good accommodation for First Class Passengers, Electric Light and Fans in staterooms and Saloons and Excellent cuisine.

FOR

## SWATOW, AMOY AND FOOCHOW

AND RETURN.

(Occupying 9 to 10 Days).

"HAIKONG" ... Capt. J. W. Evans ... TUESDAY, 16th Apr., at Noon.  
"HAIKONG" ... Capt. A. E. Hodges ... FRIDAY, 18th Apr., at Noon.

Arrivals and Departures from the Company's Wharf (near Hake Pier).

For Freight and Passage, apply to—

DOUGLAS LAFAIR & CO.

General Managers.

## BRITISH INDIA S. N. CO., LTD.

## APCAR LINE.

REGULAR SERVICE BETWEEN

CALCUTTA STRAITS, SHANGHAI AND JAPAN PORTS.

EASTWARD

WESTWARD

The above Steamers have excellent Saloon accommodation for Passengers and are fitted with all modern conveniences and carry a daily qualified surgeon.

For Freight or Passage apply to

DAVID SARSON & CO., LTD.

Agents

## P. &amp; O. S. N. CO.

## ROYAL MAIL SERVICE

UNDER CONTRACT WITH HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT  
TO

## MARSEILLES AND LONDON,

TAKING PASSENGERS AND CARGO TO

STRAITS, COLOMBO, INDIA, AUSTRALIA, EGYPT, &c.

Steamers	Leave Hong Kong	Connecting Mail	Des at MARSEILLES	Des at LONDON
COLOMBO	10th Noon	Str. from Colombo	18th	19th

When Passengers change Steamers at COLOMBO.  
Accommodation in the connecting Steamer from COLOMBO is definitely reserved in Hongkong at the time of Booking.  
On the Australian Route Tickets interchangeable with Orient Line.

SAILINGS DIRECT TO

## SHANGHAI, MOJI, KOBE AND YOKOHAMA.

S.S.

LEAVE HONGKONG ABOUT

Passengers may travel by Railway in Japan between Ports of Call free of charge.  
Return Tickets are available by Messageries Maritimes Company.

## INTERMEDIATE STEAMERS

(Non-Transshipment),

IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE MAIL STEAMERS,

WILL LEAVE DIRECT FOR

## MARSEILLES AND LONDON,

Calling at SINGAPORE, PORT SWETENHAM, PENANG, COLOMBO AND PORT SAID.

CARRYING 1st and 2nd SALOON PASSENGERS AT REDUCED RATES.  
PROPOSED SAILINGS:

STEAMERS	Leave H.K. about	Leave SINGAPORE about	Des at MARSEILLES if calling about	Des at LONDON about
The Intermediate	Service is	Temporarily	Suspended.	

## WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY FITTED ON ALL STEAMERS.

All Cabins are fitted with Electric Fans free of charge and each Berth furnished with an Electric Reading Lamp.  
Round-the-World Tickets and Through Tickets to New York in connection with the Principal Mail Lines.

Return Tickets at fare and a half available to Europe for Two Years or to Intermediate Ports for Six Months.  
Owing to the War in Europe Steamers and Sailing dates are liable to be cancelled or altered without notice.

## NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

Consignees are reminded of the necessity to apply to the Company's Agents regarding arrival of consignments expected of which they have received documents or advice.

Any damaged packages must be left in the Godown for examination by the Consignees, and the Company's Surveyors, Messrs. GODDARD & DUFFELL, at 10 A.M. on MONDAYS and THURSDAYS. All Claims must be presented within ten days of the Steamer's arrival here, after which date they cannot be recognised. No Claims will be admitted after the goods have left the Godown.

For Further Information, Passage Fares, Freight, Handbooks, Dates of Sailing, etc., apply to

E. V. D. PARR,  
Superintendent.

## NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA.

(JAPAN MAIL S.S. CO.)

(SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG SUBJECT TO ALTERATION.)

DESTINATION	STEAMERS & DISPLACEMENT	SAILING DATES
SHANGHAI, KOBE & YOKOHAMA	KAGA MARU ... 12,500 tons ... WED. 24th April 11 A.M. HIRANO MARU ... 16,000 tons ... THURS. 25th April 11 A.M.	
NAGASAKI, KOBE & YOKOHAMA	AKI MARU ... 12,500 tons ... SAT. 20th April 11 A.M. TANGU MARU ... 13,500 tons ... SAT. 19th May 11 A.M.	
SHANGHAI, MOJI & KOBE	BOMBAY MARU ... 8,000 tons ... TUES. 23rd April. OBYLON MARU ... 10,000 tons ... MON. 29th April.	

LONDON or LIVERPOOL via SINGAPORE, PENANG, COLOMBO, DELAGOA BAY & CAPE TOWN ...

MELBOURNE via MANILA, ZAMBOANGA, THURSDAY, IS, TOWNSVILLE, BRISBANE & SYDNEY ...

NEW YORK via SHANGHAI, KOBE, YOKOHAMA, SAN FRANCISCO & PANAMA CANAL ...

BOMBAY via SINGAPORE, MALACCA & COLOMBO ...

CALCUTTA via SINGAPORE, PENANG & RANGOON ...

§ Omitting Shanghai and/or Moji.

† Wireless telegraphy.

For dates of sailing apply at the Company's Office.

## HONGKONG, VICTORIA, B.C., SEATTLE

VIA

MANILA, SHANGHAI, NAGASAKI, KOBE, YOKKAICHI & YOKOHAMA.

Operated by the magnificent and splendidly equipped passenger steamers "FUSHIMI MARU," "SUWA MARU," "KASHIMA MARU" and "KATORI MARU," each of over 20,000 tons displacement.

Next Sailing from Hongkong.

KATORI MARU ... SAT. 20th April, at 11 A.M.  
SUWA MARU ... WED. 15th May, at 11 A.M.

† Omitting Manila Enroute.

For further information apply to

NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA.

B. MORI, Manager.

Telephone 282 and 293

## TOYO KISEN KAISHA.

## SAN FRANCISCO LINE.

VIA SHANGHAI, INLAND SEA, JAPAN AND HONOLULU

FAST AND LUXURIOUS MAIL STEAMERS

(Sailings from Hongkong—Subject to Change Without Notice)

Steamers	Tons	Leave Hongkong
SEIYU MARU ...	22,000	SAT. 27th Apr.
KOREA MARU ...	18,000	FEL. 24th May.
SIBERIA MARU ...	18,000	SAT. 8th June.
TENYO MARU ...	22,000	THURS. 20th June.

## SOUTH AMERICAN LINE.

HONGKONG to VALPARAISO via JAPAN, HONOLULU, SAN FRANCISCO, SAN PEDRO, SALINO CRUZ, BALBOA, OALLAO, ARIACA AND IQUIQUE

THENCE BY TRANS-ANDREAN ROUTE TO BUENOS AIRES.

ANYO MARU ...	18,600 Tons
KIYO MARU ...	17,300 "
NIPPON MARU ...	11,000 "

Tickets are interchangeable with the CANADIAN PACIFIC OCEAN SERVICES, Ltd., and the PACIFIC MAIL STEAMSHIP CO.  
Passengers may travel by Rail between Ports of Call in Japan free of Charge.  
For full information as to rates, sailings, etc., apply to—

T. DAIGO, Manager,  
King's Building.

Telephone 2274 and 2275.

## MESSAGERIES MARITIMES.

## FRENCH MAIL LINES.

SERVICE TO AND FROM JAPAN VIA SHANGHAI

SERVICE TO AND FROM EUROPE

Ports of call:—Yokohama, Kobe, Shanghai, Hongkong, Saigon, Singapore, Colombo, Djibouti, Suez, Port Said, Marseilles.

ALL STEAMERS FITTED WITH WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.

Return Tickets to Europe available for two years.

Return Tickets to Intermediate Ports available for six months.

For full particulars regarding sailings, apply to

P. THOMAS, Agent,  
Queen's Building.

Telephone 740.

O. S. K.  
OSAKA SHOSEN KAIS

REGULAR SERVICES, PROPOSED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG  
(SUBJECT TO ALTERATION).

North American Line. For VICTORIA, SEATTLE AND TACOMA, via SHANGHAI, MANILA, NAGASAKI, MOJI, KOBE, and YOKOHAMA.

"MANILA MARU" ... MONDAY, 29th Apr., at 2 P.M.  
"CHICAGO MARU" ... MONDAY, 6th May, at 2 P.M.

NORTH AMERICAN LINE—This line maintains a regular fortnightly service between Hongkong and Puget Sound ports touching at intermediate ports in Japan. Overland cargo taken on through Bills of Lading for U.S.A. and connection are made at Puget Sound ports with the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway.

SOUTH AMERICAN LINE—Every three months the steamer proceeding to Rio de Janeiro, Santos and Buenos Aires, via Singapore, Mauritius, Durban and Cape Town.

AUSTRALIAN LINE—Monthly service between Japan and Adelaide, calling at Auckland, N. Z., Sydney and Melbourne.

BOMBAY LINE—Fortnightly service for Bombay calling at Singapore, and Colombo. At present this line's steamers maintain cargo only.

JAVA LINE—Monthly service for Java ports calling at Manila, Sandakan and Massawa. Booking for passengers and cargo to the ports.

FOR SAILING DATES AND FURTHER PARTICULARS REGARDING PASSENGER OR FREIGHT APPLY AT OFFICE.

FORMOSAN LINE—For Tamsui, Keelung and Anping, Takao, via Swatow and Amoy.

"JOSHIN MARU" ... MONDAY, 15th Apr., at 9 A.M.  
"AMAKUSA MARU" ... MONDAY, 21st Apr., at Noon.  
"GOSHI MARU" ... THURSDAY, 25th Apr., at 8 A.M.

These Formosan Lines will arrive at and depart from the SOON YIP WHARF, near the Harbour Office, and while the steamer is alongside the wharf Telephone No. 76 will be fixed.

For FURTHER INFORMATION, apply to—

K. YAMASAKI, Manager,  
No. 1, Queen's Building.

Tel. Nos 744 and 745.

## CHINA MAIL S.S. CO., LTD.

(FREIGHT AND PASSENGERS)

## S.S. "CHINA"

WILL SAIL FROM HONGKONG FOR

## SAN FRANCISCO

VIA SHANGHAI, NAGASAKI, YOKOHAMA AND HONOLULU TO SAN FRANCISCO.

JUNE 21 and AUGUST 31, 1918.

AN UNSURPASSED HIGH-CLASS PASSENGER SERVICE AT INTERMEDIATE RATES.

O. B. MITTER, Freight and Passage Agents,  
Piazza's Buildings, 108 Hous Street.



PHILIP CARTWRIGHT, for THE HONGKONG